ceptor, during this connection, was not only entertained by the Mareſchal de Briſſac with all attention and reſpect due both to his character and ſituation, but he is ſaid to have been frequently admitted to the Mareſchal's ſecret * councils. In a paſſage cited by Buchanan's editor of 1715, from a Latin oration of Henry Stephens, the friend of Buchanan, I find an anecdote relative to this ſubject, which perhaps you will not think unworthy of inſertion. The orator, after having taken notice of the contempt ſometimes ſhewn for the opinions of literary men upon matters of war, ſays, "Briſſac, on the contrary, leader of the forces of Francis I. in the wars of Piedmont, was wont to call George Buchanan his ſon's preceptor, into council with the Generals themſelves of the army. This practice was occaſioned by the following circumſtance: Once, when Buchanan, in order to give ſome commiſſion to a ſervant, went down from his apartment to a dining-room contiguous and open to the hall where Briſſac was holding council on a point of much conſequence to the ſucceſs of his affairs, one of the general officers ſmiled at ſomething which he overheard Buchanan muttering, expreſſive of diſcontent at the opinion of the majority in council. Briſſac, perceiving what entertained the general, obliged Buchanan to deliver his ſentiments freely. The wiſdom of his ſpeech appeared like ſomething oracular, not only to Briſſac, but to every officer preſent, and experiment confirmed its merit."

His connection with the Mareſchal continued till 1562, and formed, not improbably, the happieſt part of his life. Where he paſſed the two ſubſequent years, is matter of uncertainty: contemporary writers diſagree much about it.

In 1563, he returned to Scotland a declared member of the reformed church. Two years after, we find him gone again to France: that country ever to our author poſſeſſing peculiar attraction; but upon what particular account he went is not known. He was, however, almoſt immediately recalled by Queen Mary of Scotland, and engaged as future preceptor to the child with whom ſhe was pregnant, afterwards James VI. Till this Prince became old enough for inſtruction, ſhe placed Buchanan in the Principalſhip of St Leonard's College at St Andrew's; an office which he filled for four years with ſingular credit.

As his genius, abilities, and extraordinary acquiſitions in literature, had now ſecured him univerſal eſteem and reputation in the learned world, ſo his religious and political principles won him the confidence and attachment of that party, whoſe councils, not many years afterwards, predominated in the tranſactions of his country.

In execution of his profeſſional duties at St Andrew's, he principally dedicated himſelf to the inſtruction of the ſtudents in philoſophy, employing, however, his leiſure in preparing an edition of his poems. But philoſophy, poetry, criticiſm, and grammar, diſtinguiſhed as he was by his proficiency in each, were not the only ſtudies which had occupied the former part of his life. During his reſidence in Piedmont, with the Mareſchal de Briſſac, he had applied himſelf earneſtly to the ſtudy of controverſial theology †, particularly to the ſubjects in diſpute betwixt the church of Rome and the Reformers. Thus qualified, although a layman, he was elected moderator to the Synod of Scotland which aſſembled in June 1567. The ambition of the Regent Murray, his old pupil, diſcovered no inconſiderable reſources in the literary talents and political abilities of Buchanan, whilſt placed in this ſituation. It was in this poſt, too, that he found opportunity both of projecting and giving ſanction to the meaſures, which proved fatal to the intereſt, and,

* Nota in Vitam, p. 17. Edit. Edin. 1715.

† Ut (ſic loquitur ipſe in vita ſua) de controverſiis, quæ tum majorem hominum partem exercebant exactius dijudicare poſſet.

at length, to the government of the Queen; to whom he had been under great obligations, and whose beauty and merits had been the theme of some of his poems.

About the end of the year 1663, when the Prince had nearly completed the fourth year of his age, Buchanan was, by order of the Privy Council and States of the Realm, directed to attend the charge of his education at court; being, at the same time, very honourably permitted to nominate a * successor to his literary functions at St Andrew's. If you should ever peruse the act of Council relative to Buchanan's removal, you will have great pleasure in remarking the zeal of these illustrious persons for the success and advancement of learning in that celebrated seminary.

As our author had now no public office to divert his attention; as an ardent love of letters was his ruling passion; as the eyes of the court, and of the whole kingdom, were turned upon him, and, as it were, waiting the success of his instructions, we must suppose every nerve of his genius strained to the utmost, in order to accomplish his royal pupil, and to infuse into his mind those principles of virtue and knowledge, in which the welfare of his fellow citizens was so nearly interested. The character and talents of James VI. being known to every one at all conversant in history, it may suffice to say, that the public expectation respecting his instructors, so far as their responsibility went, was amply satisfied: I say instructors, for it seems unjust not to mention that Mr Peter Young, who afterwards received the honour of knighthood, a learned and accomplished person, was Buchanan's colleague in this important charge. Important, however, as it was, yet the assistance of so able a coadjutor must have left Buchanan considerably in the possession of his own time. Without this supposition, it had been impossible for him to write those ‡ political treatises which he did in the year 1570, and about that time, to support the measures of his party, and to blacken the characters of their adversaries.

In what year he began his celebrated Latin History of Scotland, is not yet clearly determined; but it is with probability supposed to have been soon after these occasional publications. This work is divided into twenty books, beginning with the reign of Fergus, 330 years before Christ, and ending with that of the unfortunate Mary; not less unfortunate in the transactions of her reign, than to have had them transmitted to posterity by the brilliant pen of an historian devoted to her enemies. All the latter years of his life were employed upon this undertaking, and nothing but the most resolute application could have enabled him to ‖ finish it, afflicted as he was with extreme ill

* The person whom he named was Patrick Adamson; the same who, according to Ruddiman, was afterwards Archbishop of St Andrew's.

† Cited by Ruddiman in the edit. of 1715.

‡ These were his Camelion; his Admonition to the true Lords; and his famous book "De Jure Regni Scotorum," in which last he vindicates and defends every thing which had been done or said by himself or his party against Mary Queen of Scots. This book not only gave occasion to much clamour, but caused riots and tumults in the kingdom. His arguments are fully answered by Adam Blackwood, in his "Apologia pro regibus adversus G. Buchanani dialogum de jure regni," &c. 1581. 8vo. Both this Treatise and the Answer to it acquired universal celebrity in their time.

‖ He mentions this subject in a Letter of August 25. 1577, written in the old Scottish, and addressed to Master Randolf, Squire, Master of Posts to the Queen's Grace of England. "As for the present, I am occupyit in writynge of our History, being affrait to content few, and to displease many shortlie throw. As to the end of it, yf ye gett it not or this winter be passit, lippen not for it, nor nane other writyngs from me. The rest of my occupation is with the gout, quhilk haldis me befy both day and nyt. And quhair ye say, ye haif not long to lyf, I traist to God to go before you, albeit I be on fut, and ye ryd the post," &c. See Freebairn's Pref. to the edition of 1715.

health.

health, labouring under the advances of old age, and continually interrupted by the indispensable duties of the King's education. In the 27th epistle of his literary* correspondence, dated November 9. 1579, not three years before his death, giving an account of most of his works, and of his trouble in selecting and improving them, he concludes thus: "And to all this I have added the task of writing history; a laborious employment in the vigour of life; but which now, whilst I am meditating upon my latter end, between the apprehensions of death on one hand, and the shame of not proceeding on the other, is necessarily become slow and unpleasant: yet I feel myself obliged to proceed, though unwilling to go on." He had, however, at length, the satisfaction of completing this the greatest and the last of his mortal labours, but survived its publication scarcely a single month.

Although no person was ever better qualified, in point of abilities, or information, to shine in historical composition, or since the days of Livy and Sallust has written it with more chastised taste, or perhaps with greater purity of style, yet not only his enemies universally complain of his partiality, but even they who profess the greatest tenderness for his fame are sometimes inclined to question his veracity, and still oftener to censure his want of moderation.

Though Buchanan's merits and services were not left without honours or recompense by his patrons, the Earls of Murray and Morton, successively Regents during the King's minority, he arrived at most of them but in the last stage of his life, and is said to have left behind him neither estates nor money. He was first made Director of the Royal Chancery, afterwards Keeper of the Privy Seal, and a Member of the Council, and pensioned on the revenues of the Convent of † Cross-raguel.

Broken at length by age and infirmities, he retired in 1581, from the Court at Stirling, to Edinburgh, resigning every public charge, and calmly composing himself for the approaches of death. In a pleasing and pathetic ‡ letter, written in the spring of that year, to his only surviving friend in Portugal, he says, "I have for some time bidden adieu to letters. My sole concern now is, how I may most quietly withdraw from my ill-assorted companions; a dying man from the society of the living." Thus gracefully and deliberately quitting the scene of life, departed this extraordinary man, on Friday morning the 28th of September 1582, in the 76th year of his age.

Buchanan, with regard to his person, is said to have been slovenly, inattentive to dress, and almost to have bordered upon rusticity in his manners and appearance. The character of his countenance was manly but austere, and the portraits remaining of him bear testimony to this observation. But he was highly polished in his language and style of conversation, which was generally much seasoned with wit and humour. On every subject he possessed a peculiar facility of illustration by lively anecdotes and short moral examples; and when his knowledge and recollection failed in suggesting these, his invention immediately supplied him. He has been too justly reproached with instances of revenge, and forgetfulness of obligations. These seem not, however, to have been characteristic qualities, but occasional failures of his nobler nature, and arising from too violent an attachment to party, and an affection too partial towards individuals

* These epistles chiefly in Latin, forty-one in number, are placed at the end of the Edinburgh edition of 1715.

† The Cross Royal.

‡ Epist. 37. ad Eliam Vinetum, Edinb. 17. Cal. Aff. an. 1581. "Ego vero literis jamdudum valedixi. Nunc id unum fatago, ut, minimo cum strepitu, ex inæqualium morum, hoc est, mortuus e vivorum contubernio demigrem."

dividuals. To the ſame ſource, perhaps, may be traced that eaſineſs of belief to which he is found too frequently to reſign his better judgement. His freedom from anxieties relative to fortune, and indifference to outward and accidental circumſtances, gained him, with ſome, the reputation of a Stoic Philoſopher; but as a ſtate of mind undiſturbed by the viciſſitudes of life, and a diſpoſition to leave the morrow to take care of itſelf, are enjoined by one far better than Zeno, let us not forget that Buchanan is affirmed, moreover, to have been religious and devout, nor unjuſtly place ſo illuſtrious a figure in the nich of an Athenian portico, which claims no inferior ſtation in the Chriſtian Temple.

BY J. LETTICE, B. D.

ANECDOTES OF MILTON.

"WHEN Milton went to ſchoole, and when he was very younge, he ſtudied very hard, and ſate up very late, commonly till twelve or one o'clock, and his father ordered the maid to ſet up for him, and at thoſe years compoſed many copies of verſes, which might well have become a riper age. He was a very hard ſtudent at the Univerſity, where he perform'd all his exerciſes with very good applauſe. His firſt tutor there was Mr Chapel, who, receiving ſome unkindneſſe, whipt him; he was afterwards (though it ſeemed againſt the rules of the College) tranſferred to the tuition of one Mr Tovell, who died parſon of Lutterworth.

"He lies buried in St Giles' Cripplegate chancel, at the right hand. His ſtone is now removed, for about 7 years ſince (Nov. 1681) the two ſteppes to the Communion Table were rayſed. Ighaſſe, Jo. Speed, and he, lie together.

"His harmonicall and ingenioſe ſoul did lodge in a beautiful and well-proportioned body.

"In toto mens quaſi corpore munda fuit.

"His mother was a Bradſhawe.

"Milton wrote a dictionary called "Idioma Linguæ Latinæ;" from Mr Packer, who was his ſcholar.

"He wrote "Idea Theologiæ;" in MS. in the hands of Mr Skinner, of Mark-lane.

"Two Religious Opinions do not well upon the ſame boulſter," he ſaid of one of his wives who was of a different opinion from him in religion.

"John Dryden, Eſq; Poet Laureate, who very much admired him, went to him to have leave to put his Paradiſe Loſt into a dramatic poem. Milton received him civilly, and told him he would give him leave to tagge his leave.

"Milton's widow aſſures me, that Mr Hobbes was not of his acquaintance, but he would acknowledge him to be a man of great parts, and a learned man.

"His ſight began to fail him at firſt upon his writing againſt Salmaſius, and before it was fully completed, one eye abſolutely failed him.

"He was viſited by learned men much more then he did deſire.

"He was mightily importuned to go to France and Italie. Foreigners came much to ſee him, and much admired him, and offered him great preſents to come over to them. The only inducement of ſeveral foreigners that came over to England, was chiefly to ſee Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, and Mr John Milton. They would ſee the houſe where he was born. He was much more admired abroad than at home.

"He married his ſecond wife before the ſickneſſe (the plague); a great perſon, and of a peaceable and agreeable humour.

"He was ſcarce as tall as I am (ſays Mr Aubrey); he had light brown hair, his eye a dark graie, his face ovall. The pictures before his bookes are not like him. His widow has his picture, drawn when he was a Cambridge ſcholar, very

like

like him, and which ought to be engraven.

" His firſt wife, a Royaliſt, Mrs Powell, was brought up and bred where there was a great deal of company and merriment, as dancing, &c. and when ſhe came to live with her huſband, ſhe found it ſolitary, no company came to her, and ſhe often heard her nephews cry and be beaten. This life was irkſome to her, and ſo ſhe went to her parents. He ſent for her home after ſome time. As for wronging his bed, I never heard the leaſt ſuſpicion of that, nor had he of that any jealouſie.

" He went to travel about the year 1638, and was abroad about a year's ſpace, chiefly in Italy. Immediately after his return, he took a lodging at Mr Ruſſell's, a taylor, in St Bride's Church-yard, and took into his tuition his ſiſter's two ſons, Edward and John Philips (the firſt 10, the other 9 years of age), and in a *year*'s time, made them *capable of interpreting a Latin author at ſight*, and within three years they went through the beſt of the Latin and Greek poets, Lucretius Manilius; and (with him the uſe of the globes) of the Latins, Heſiod, Aratus, Dionyſius Afer, Oppian, Appollonii Argonautica, Quintus Calaber, Cato, Varro, and Columella de Re Ruſticâ, were the very firſt authors they learned.

" As he was ſevere on one hand, ſo he was moſt familiar and free in his converſation to thoſe whom he muſt ſerve in his way of education.

" N. B. He made his nephews ſongſters, and ſing from the time they were with him.

" His familiar learned acquaintance, were Mr Andrew Marvell, Mr Skinner, Dr Pagett, M. D.

" He was pleaſant in his converſation, but ſatyrical. His exerciſe was chiefly walking. After dinner he uſed to walk two or three hours at a time: he always had a garden where he lived. He was an early riſer, yea after he had loſt his ſight (*ſc.* at four o'clock *manè*). He had a man read to him. The firſt thing they read was the Hebrew Bible, then he contemplated. At ſeven his man came to him againe, and read and wrote for him till dinner (the writing was as much as the reading). His daughter Deborah could read to him Latin, Italian, French, Greek (ſhe was very like her father). He went to bed about nine. He was temperate, rarely drank between meals. He pronounced the letter R very hard. He had a delicate tunable voice, and had good ſkill. His father reſembled him. He had an organ in his houſe; he played on that moſt.

" From Mr Abram Hill.

" Memorandum.—His (Milton's) ſharpe writing againſt Alexander More, of Holland, upon a miſtake, notwithſtanding he had given him, *by the Ambaſſador*, all ſatisfaction * to the contrary.

" To enquire of Mr Allan, of Edmund Hall, Oxon, of Mr *J. Milton's Life writt by himſelf.*

" He had a very good memorie, but I believe his excellent manner of thinking did much helpe his memorie.

" He lived in ſeverall places: Holbourne, near King's Gate. He died in Bunhill, oppoſite the artillery garden wall. He ſeldome tooke any phyſic, only ſometimes he took manna. He was very † healthy, and free from all diſeaſes; and towards his latter end, he was viſited by the goutte. He would be chearful even in his goutte, and ſing. He died of the goutte ſtruck in.

" I heard (ſays Mr Aubrey) that after he was blind, he was writing a Latin Dictionary. The widow affirms, that he gave all his papers (amongſt

* Viz. that the book (called Clamor Cœli) was written by Peter du Moulin. Well! that was all one, he having writ it, it ſhould goe into the world; one of them was as bad as the other.

† The learned Huetius ſays, that ſtudious men live as long or longer than other men, if they will take care not to overload their ſtomach with meat and drink.

which

which was his dictionary) to his nephew: That he brought up his ſiſter's ſon Philips, who lives near the Maypole in the Strand. She has a great many letters by her from learned men of his acquaintance, both of England and beyond ſea.

"M. Theodore Haake, R. S. S. hath tranſlated half his Paradiſe Loſt into High Dutch, in ſuch blank verſe as is very well liked by Germanus Fabricius, profeſſor at Heidelburgh, who ſent Mr Haake a letter upon his tranſlation, in which he ſays, "Incredibile eſt quantum nos omnes affecerit gravitas ſtyli & copia beatiſſimorum erborum."

"In the third book of Paradiſe Loſt there are about ſix verſes of Satan's exclamation to the Sun, which E. Ph. remembers about 15 or 16 years before his poem was thought of, which were intended for the beginning of a Tragœdie which he had deſigned, but was diverted from it by other buſineſſe."

From Aubrey's MS. in the Aſhmolean Muſeum at Oxford.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF ABBE SIEYES.

AS this gentleman has always been conſidered as a leading character in France, whatever party have held the reins, an account of him will, we truſt, be an acceptable article.

EMANUEL JOSEPH SIEYES was born at Frejus, in the department of Var, the 3d of May 1748. He was the 5th child of his parents, who had two more after him. His firſt ſtudies commenced in the houſe of his father, under a preceptor; who, at the ſame time, took his pupil to the College of the Jeſuits, to receive public leſſons with the other children of the town. The Jeſuits took notice of this ſcholar. They propoſed to his father to ſend him to their great ſeminary at Lyons, one of the beſt eſtabliſhments for education they had in France. It was at the time of the commencement of that quarrel, which, in its conſequences, produced the abolition of that ſociety. The father of Sieyes reſiſted the advice of the reverend fathers, and the biſhop of the place, who joined them. He ſent his ſon to finiſh his claſſes at the College des Doctrinaires, at Draguignan, a town of ſome note in the ſame department.

Sieyes ſaw the greater number of his companions leave the college, to enter into the ſchools of artillery or military engineering. He longed to follow the ſame courſe, and wrote to his parents with all the ardour of youthful paſſion. In anſwer he was recalled home: he was deſtined to the eccleſiaſtic ſtate. The biſhop of Frejus had ſeduced his father with the promiſe of ſpeedy advancement. This induced him to conſider the weak ſtate of health of the boy, which ſeemed to juſtify the project. Young Sieyes was ſent to Paris, to the ſeminary of St Sulpice, to go through the courſes of philoſophy and theology.

He was then in his fourteenth year; but in a ſituation ſo contrary to his natural diſpoſition, it is not extraordinary that he ſhould have contracted a ſort of ſavage melancholy, accompanied with the moſt ſtoic indifference as to his perſon and his future ſituation. He was deſtined to bid farewell to happineſs; he was out of nature; the love of ſtudy only could charm him. His attention became ſtrongly directed to books and the ſciences. In this manner paſſed, without interruption, ten years of his life, till the expiration of what, in the Sorbonne, is called the courſe of ſcience.

During this long interval, he had not attended to the theological and pretended philoſophical ſtudies of the univerſity of Paris, more than was neceſſary to paſs the ordinary examinations and theſes. Urged by his diſpoſition, or perhaps in compliance with the mere want of entertainment to fill his time, he ran through, without diſtinction or regularity, every department of literature, ſtudied the mathematics and natural

tural philoſophy, and endeavoured to initiate himſelf into the arts, particularly muſic. An involuntary inclination, nevertheleſs, led him to meditation. He was much attached to works of metaphyſics and morality; and has often ſaid, that no books had ever afforded him more lively ſatisfaction than thoſe of Locke, Condillac, and Bonnet. In them he ſaw men having the ſame intereſt, the ſame inſtinct, and buſied upon one common object.

His ſuperiors had, according to their cuſtom, inſpected his reading and his writings. They had found among his papers ſome ſcientific projects of conſiderable novelty. They conſigned in their regiſter the following note: "Sieyes ſhews a diſpoſition of ſome ſtrength for the ſciences; but it is to be feared, that his private reading may give him a taſte for the new philoſophical principles." They comforted themſelves, however, by obſerving his decided love of retirement and ſtudy, the ſimplicity of his manners and his character, which even then appeared to be practically philoſophical. "You may make him," they once wrote to his biſhop, "a canon, as he is a gentleman, and a man of information. But we muſt adviſe you, that he is by no means fit for the eccleſiaſtical miniſtry."

Sieyes, having finiſhed his licence in the Sorbonne, neglected the formality of the doctor's bonnet, and entered the world at the age of twenty-four.

Part of the year 1773 and 1774 was employed in cultivating muſic, then at the period of a revolution in Paris, and lately in refuting the ſyſtem of the Economiſts. He made, or ſuppoſed he had made, in thoſe years, important reſearches concerning the irregular proceedings of the human mind, in philoſophy, metaphyſics, language, and intellectual methods.

He departed in 1775 for Brittany, with a biſhop who was going to be inſtalled; and who, in order to carry Sieyes with him, had procured him the *Brevet de joyeux avenement* on his cathedral. A ſhort time after taking poſſeſſion of his canonicate, he was at liberty to return to Paris. He was indebted for this to one of the titles or brevets given at Verſailles, by virtue of which, the revenues of his benefice could be received at Paris. An opportunity preſented of changing his ſituation. He became ſucceſſively vicar general, canon, and chancellor of the church of Chartres. In the midſt of theſe mutations there is nothing worthy of remark, except his extreme care to avoid interfering in any miniſterial duty. He never preached; he never took confeſſion; he avoided all the functions, and all the occaſions which might hold him forward manifeſtly as a clergyman.

At that time the clergy of France was divided into two kinds or claſſes of individuals: the eccleſiaſtics preachers, and the eccleſiaſtics adminiſtrators. Sieyes was, at moſt, of the ſecond claſs. He was deputy to the States of Bretagne, for the dioceſe where he had his firſt benefice; and on this occaſion we may remark, that nothing could equal the indignation he brought from this aſſembly, againſt the ſhameful oppreſſion in which the nobleſſe held the unhappy third ſtate of the people.

At that time he had a permanent adminiſtrative employment at Paris. He was counſellor commiſſary, nominated by the dioceſe of Chartres to the ſuperior chamber of the clergy of France.

When the Provincial Aſſembly of Orleans was formed, Sieyes had ſome reputation for his adminiſtrative knowledge. He was nominated a member, not by the advice of the miniſter, but of thoſe already elected. He gave proofs of ſome capacity for buſineſs, and a patriotic diſpoſition: ſo that he was ſtrongly invited by the aſſembly to take the preſidency of the intermediary commiſſion. He performed the functions for a ſhort time.

On the day when the chambers were exiled to Troyes, Sieyes gave the advice to go inſtantly to the palace, to ar-

reſt and hang the miniſter who ſigned orders evidently arbitrary, illegal, and proſcribed by the people. But his advice did not prevail.

It was during his leiſure in the country, where he was in the habit of paſſing two-thirds of the year, that he compoſed, in the ſummer of 1788, towards the end of the miniſtry of Cardinal Lomenie, his *Vues ſur les Moyenes d' Exécution, dont les Repréſentans de la France pourront diſpoſer, in* 1789. (Views of the Executive Means which are at the Diſpoſal of the Repreſentatives of France, in 1789.) with this inſcription, calculated to ſhew his intention: "We may elevate our deſires to the extent of our rights; but our projects muſt be meaſured by our means." This pamphlet was delivered to the printer, and was advancing towards publication, when, on his return to Paris, he thought fit to ſuſpend its appearance. The political queſtions which intereſted and employed the minds of all France, ſeemed already to have changed its nature; it was forced to yield to the modifications which the pretenſions of the different claſſes had urged. It was no longer the whole nation, deſirous of aſſerting its rights againſt the abſolute power of royalty; it was the nobility, ever ready to form combinations; who, taking advantage of the re-union and diſpleaſure of the notables, had no other aim than that of urging their own intereſts againſt thoſe of the people, with the hope, likewiſe, of cauſing the miniſter to confirm their account, as well as their new pretenſions, ſimply by putting him in fear. This was the circumſtance which led Sieyes to write his *Eſſai ſur les Privileges*, (Eſſay on Privileges,) and immediately afterwards, his work entitled, *Qu'eſt-ce que le Tiers-Etat*, (What is this Third Eſtate?) It is eaſy, by comparing theſe two publications with the former, to ſhew how different, though not oppoſite, their ſpirit is to that in which he traced his *Vues ſur les Moyenes d' Exécution*. Theſe three pamphlets appeared immediately following each other, at the end of 1788, and the beginning of 1789.

The *Tiers-Etat* of Paris, which the miniſters had thought fit to convene very late, had to nominate twenty deputies to the States General. It was agreed by the electoral aſſembly, that neither a noble nor a prieſt ſhould be elegible. After the nineteenth ſcrutiny, the vote of excluſion was reſcinded, and the majority of votes, at the laſt ballot, were in favour of the author of *Qu'eſt-ce que le Tiers?*

The States General were aſſembled, and ſeveral weeks were conſumed in vain diſputes reſpecting the verification of the powers. The public, all France, expected, with impatience, the firſt efforts of the repreſentatives of the people. Sieyes dared to cut the cable which ſtill confined the veſſel near the ſhore.

He thought it became him to endeavour to put in practice the principles which had made him known, and procured him the truſt he poſſeſſed; opinions which became every day more decidedly thoſe of the people at large. No man has more openly and decidedly ſhewn his manner of thinking, and the principles of his conduct. He ſpoke with ſucceſs to the National Aſſembly, on the 10th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th, and 23d of June. But our preſent intention is not to give a detail of ſuch objects as come under the province of hiſtory.

We may diſtinguiſh the political career of Sieyes into three intervals: from the opening of the States General to that of the Convention. The firſt dates from the day wherein he uttered theſe words:—"They wiſh to be free; but they know not how to be juſt."

Theſe words eſcaped him—and they were received by the ear of paſſion. Hatred and the ſpirit of faction was earneſtly diſpoſed to preſerve them: and falſehood added its commentaries. Under their united efforts, that which was improperly called his influence, diſappeared. In the ſuſpicions exhibited around him, he obſerved the work of ca-

calumny. His determination was ſoon made; to neglect the remarks of folly; to profit by this miſtruſt, by diminiſhing his labours; to appear ſeldom in the tribune, for which, in other reſpects, he found himſelf little ſuited; but he continued to work uſefully in the committees, and the more ſo, as he did not there meet with a kind of obſtacle he found it impoſſible to combat; namely, that of treachery, applauded and ſupported by thoſe very men who have the greateſt intereſt in unmaſking it.

In this manner he bore a more or leſs conſiderable ſhare in the great labours and important queſtions which occupied the Aſſembly, though it is proper to ſay, if for no other purpoſe than that of accuracy, that none of his plans were adopted without mutilation, and a mixture of other matter, more or leſs foreign to the object. A part of his projects and memoirs has remained behind, if it be not loſt, among the papers of the committees, and by himſelf they are ſcarcely ever remembered.

This compoſed the ſecond period of his political life, leſs active, leſs public, but often as laborious as the former, and which ended in June 1791.

(*To be continued.*)

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 116.

IN addition to what was ſaid in our laſt number, a correſpondent has favoured us with the following particulers reſpecting the population of Edinburgh:

"FROM a ſurvey made from houſe to houſe in 1791, with the utmoſt exactneſs, the number of families were found to be 18,654, and the number of inhabitants 84,886, including the whole of the pariſh of St Cuthbert, the caſtle and hoſpitals, which is nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ to a family. So that both Mr Maitland and Mr Arnot are greatly above the truth: Dr Price calculates the number of each family in Edinburgh only at $4\frac{1}{10}$ which is not far wrong. Of 12 country pariſhes, taken at random from the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, ſome of them in manufacturing counties, $4\frac{9}{10}$ was found to be the average number of each family.

From the above ſurvey, in 1791, the number of a family, in the nine pariſhes within the Old City, was found to be - - - $4\frac{1}{4}$

In the New Town -	$5\frac{3}{4}$
In the Canongate, only -	4
South Leith -	4
North Leith, only -	$3\frac{3}{4}$

St Cuthbert, or Weſt Kirk, the moſt populous pariſh in Scotland, containing 32,947 perſons - $5\frac{1}{10}$

The following is the progreſſive increaſe of Edinburgh, at the annexed periods:

In 1747	45,320
1755	57,220
1775	69,039
1791	84,886

So that in 50 years this city has almoſt doubled the number of its inhabitants."

We do not conſider it neceſſary to ſtate particularly the revenue and expenditure of the city of Edinburgh. The proper revenue of the city conſiſts partly of the duties or taxations exigible by the town-council; ſuch as the impoſt on wines; the ſhore-dues at Leith; the duties collected at the poultry, fiſh, meal, and other markets; the annuity, or miniſters ſtipend; partly of their landed property, ſuch as Leith and Bruntsfield Links, Calton-hill, and Meadows, houſes and ſhops in Edinburgh and Leith; partly of their feuduties, as thoſe on the mills of the Water of Leith, of the houſes in the New Town, &c.; partly of what is paid for private water pipes. The proper revenue of the city conſiſts of theſe, and many other articles. Its groſs produce (not reckoning here the appropriated revenue) is at preſent about L. 10,000 Sterling yearly, and a gradual increaſe of it may be expected.

What may be mentioned as the curioſities to be attended to, are the College library and muſeum: the Advocates' library, where, beſides the extenſive collection of books of upwards of 30,000 volumes, excluſive of manuſcripts, already noticed, is to be ſeen an entire mummy in its original cheſt. This was purchaſed by the late Earl of Morton, Lord Regiſter of Scotland, at L. 300 Sterling, and was by him preſented to the Faculty. They are alſo poſſeſſed of a fine collection of coins and medals to the number of between 3 and 4000. Theſe are partly Greek, Roman, Saxon, Scottiſh, and Engliſh. Mr Weir's muſeum is alſo worthy of attention. His collection of birds and animals is extenſive, and in excellent preſervation. He conſiders himſelf as the firſt who has brought the art of preſerving fiſhes to perfection. Here are alſo to be ſeen ſeveral good ſpecimens of petrifactions, ſhells, and minerals. The antiquarian ſociety are alſo poſſeſſed of a fine collection of coins, and many curious relicts of antiquity.

The buildings occupied by the Antiquarian Society, and Weir's muſeum, were formerly private houſes. Our plan does not admit of a particular deſcription of the buildings, occupied by different ſocieties, though ſeveral of theſe are remarkable for elegance and beauty; ſuch as the Phyſicians' hall, after a deſign of the late Mr James Craig, founded in November 1775; and the Exciſe-office, formerly the reſidence of Sir Laurence Dundas.

In a capital, like Edinburgh, which is making rapid improvement, and in a country where trade, agriculture, and commerce are ſo much on the increaſe, the manners of the people cannot be ſtationary, nor their ſtyle of living long the ſame. The higher ranks ſpend, now and then, a portion of their time in London, and fall into the faſhion of that metropolis. As the inferior ranks always copy the manners of their ſuperiors, theſe are gradually communicated from one circle to another, till a change is produced in the whole community; wealth affording the means, luxury creeps in apace.

We hope to be excuſed for contraſting our ſhort account of the preſent manners, with that given by an Engliſhman who viſited Edinburgh in 1598, as quoted by Mr Arnot.

"Myſelf," ſays he, "was at a knight's houſe*, who had many ſervants to attend him, that brought in his meat, with their heads covered with blue caps, the table being more than half furniſhed with great platters of porridge, each having a little piece of ſodden meat; and, when the table was ſerved, the ſervants ſat down with us; but the upper meſs, inſtead of porridge, had a pullet, with ſome prunes in the broth. And I obſerved no art of cookery, or furniture of houſhold-ſtuff, but rather rude neglect of both, though myſelf and my companions, ſent from the governor of Berwick, about bordering affairs, were entertained after their beſt manner. The Scots, living then in factions, uſed to keep many followers, and ſo conſumed their revenue of victuals, living in ſome want of money. They vulgarly eat hearth cakes of oats, but, in cities, have alſo wheaten bread, which, for the moſt part, was bought by courtiers, gentlemen, and the beſt ſort of citizens.

"They drink pure wines, not with ſugar as the Engliſh; yet, at feaſts, they put comfits in the wines, after the French manner; but they had not our vintners fraud to mix their wines. I did never ſee nor hear, that they have any public inns with ſigns hanging out; but the better ſort of citizens brew ale, their uſual drink, (which will diſtemper a ſtranger's body); and the ſame citizens will entertain paſſengers upon acquaintance or intreaty. Their bed-ſteads were then like cupboards in the wall, with doors to be opened and ſhut at pleaſure, ſo as we climbed up to our beds. They uſed but one ſheet, open at the ſides

* Moriſon's itinerary, part 3. b. 3. c. 4.

and

and top, but close at the feet *, and so doubled.—When passengers go to bed, their custom was to present them with a sleeping cup of wine at parting. The country people and merchants used to drink largely; the gentlemen somewhat more sparingly; yet, the very courtiers, by night meetings, and entertaining any stranger, used to drink healths not without excess; and, to speak truth without offence, the excess of drinking was then far greater in general among the Scots than the English. Myself being at the court, invited by some gentlemen to supper; and being forewarned to fear this excess, would not promise to sup with them, but upon condition that my inviter would be my protection from large drinking, which I was many times forced to invoke, being courteously entertained, and much provoked to carousing; and so for that time avoided any great intemperance. Remembering this, and having since observed, in my conversation at the English court, with the Scots of the better sort, that they spend great part of the night in drinking, not only wine, but even beer; as myself cannot accuse them of any great intemperance, so I cannot altogether free them from the imputation of excess, wherewith the popular voice chargeth them.

"The husbandmen in Scotland, the servants, and almost all the country, did wear coarse cloth made at home, of grey or sky-colour, and flat blew caps, very broad. The merchants in cities were attired † in English or French cloth, of pale colour, or mingled black and blue. The gentlemen did wear English cloth or silk, or light stuffs, little or nothing adorned with silk lace, much less with lace of silver or gold. And all followed at this time the French fashion, especially in court. Gentlewomen, married, did wear close upper bodies, after the German manner, with large whale-bone sleeves, after the French manner, short cloaks like the Germans, French hoods, and large falling bands about their necks. The unmarried of all sorts did go bare-headed, and wear short cloaks with most close linen sleeves on their arms, like the virgins of Germany. The inferior sort of citizens wives, and the women of the country, did wear cloaks made of a coarse stuff, of two or three colours, in checker work, vulgarly called Plodan ‡. To conclude, in general, they would not at this time be attired after the English fashion, in any sort; but the men, especially at court, follow the French fashion; and the women, both in court and city, as well in cloaks, as naked heads, and close sleeves on the arms, and all other garments, follow the fashion of the women in Germany."

About 20 or 30 years ago, the generality of the people of Edinburgh were in use to dine at two o'clock. Shopkeepers were wont to lock their shops at one for dinner, and open them again at two o'clock; business was attended to by all ranks after dinner: a simple dinner, consisting of one or two plain dishes, was the usual fare; wine was seldom or never seen at the tables of the middle ranks. The intercourse of the sexes was kept up chiefly at tea visits at five o'clock. The people of Edinburgh were exemplary for their regular attendance at church. Public places were little frequented; excepting at the theatre, the middling ranks seldom appeared at any public amusements. Families had, in general, only one or two maid servants; a livery servant was, we believe, unknown in the middling station. The wages of a maid servant, in general, was from L. 3 to L. 4 a-year, and these dressed in red cloaks or tartan plaids; they seldom wore shoes but on Sundays. The taverns and lodging-houses were poor and dirty; there was no such place as a hotel.

* The same prevails universally in Scotland at this day.

† Morison's itinerary, part 3. b. 3. c. 4.

‡ i. e. Plaiding, or plaids.

At

At this period the inhabitants of Edinburgh were greatly hampered for lodging; people of quality and faſhion were obliged to ſubmit to ſmall, dull, and unhealthy habitations; as a proof of this, it is only neceſſary to mention, that, even ſo far back as the 1783, the houſe which, in 1763, the then Lord Juſtice Clerk inhabited, was poſſeſſed by a French teacher; the Lord Preſident Craigie's houſe by a rouping-wife, or ſal ſwoman of old furniture; and Lord Dunmore's houſe was left by a chairman for want of accommodation; and a houſe lately occupied by one of the preſent Lords of Seſſion, is now poſſeſſed by a taylor.

Of late the change is alſo, in every other reſpect, remarkable. The tables of the middling ranks not only exhibit varieties of diſhes, but wines are almoſt univerſally drank; and when a party goes abroad to dine, there they alſo ſpend the afternoon. It is much to be regretted that the ladies are ſo much neglected in theſe parties; the gentlemen, in general, preferring the bottle to the drawing room. That ſoftneſs and elegance of manners, which can only be acquired in the company of ladies, is much on the decline. The hour of dinner now is 4, and often 5 o'clock, and buſineſs is but ſeldom attended in the evening. Sunday is now the principal day for ſeeing company; of courſe the churches are but badly attended. The dreſs of people of faſhion was coſtly and elegant; it was accounted abſolutely neceſſary to be in dreſs at a public place. This part of ceremony is much given up, and people go to aſſemblies, plays, and concerts, much in the ſame way as they go to dinner. The ladies, ſtill, however, attend more to dreſs; many good conſequences might be figured to enſue, were the gentlemen equally attentive to this part of ceremony. Hoſpitality is a leading feature of the inhabitants. The lower ranks may, with juſtice, be charged with intemperance, and this is much owing to the cheap price of whiſky. There were very few inſtances (if any) of a citizen of Edinburgh keeping his carriage 20 years ſince; now there are many.

The lodgings, particularly of the New Town, and other newly erected buildings, are elegant and healthy. In general, furniture is to be ſeen correſponding to the houſes. Though the wages of ſervants have been much the ſame theſe twenty years, yet their appearance and dreſs is greatly improved; now, perhaps, theſe are on the other extreme. Till within theſe few years, umbrellas were unknown.

LEITH.

Leith, being the ſea-port of Edinburgh, falls next to be noticed. It is a populous, and thriving town, ſuppoſed to contain about 14,000 inhabitants; but the houſes are in general indifferent, and the ſtreets narrow and dirty. The harbour is formed by a ſtone pier, which has been lately much improved. When finiſhed, according to the plan lately made out, the harbour will be uſeful and commodious. Ships can only enter the harbour at full tide; but the roads of Leith, afford moſt excellent anchoring ground at all times, for ſhips of any ſize.

Beſides a very frequent intercourſe with London, the trade of Leith is to the Baltic, to the different ports of Germany in the eaſt ſeas, and to Holland; to Spain, France, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, for wines, fruits, &c. and for ſome years paſt, the Weſt India trade has been ſucceſsfully attempted*. The making of glaſs, ſoap, and carpet-

* From the Statiſtical Account, the trade of Leith, from the 14th November 1786 to the 14th November 1787, appears to be as follows:

	Foreign.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Total.*
Ships	—	17	10	27
Brigs	11	22	92	125
Sloops	10	282	1407	1708
Tons	3454	26,170	75,809	105,223

During the ſame period, there came into Leith harbour, from ports within the Firth of Forth, 383 veſſels with coals, meaſuring 14,956 tons, and the ſame number of veſſels with other goods, meaſuring 16,139 tons.

ing,

ing, are the chief ſpecies of manufacture. In Leith there are two banks; the Leith Banking Company, and a branch of the Britiſh Linen Company.

The fortifications erected in the time of Oliver Cromwell, in North Leith, called the citadel, for the purpoſe of defending the harbour, were demoliſhed at the reſtoration of Charles II. Of late, however, a very elegant battery has been built for the defence of the ſhipping, a little to the weſt of the citadel, on a riſing ground, which fully commands the entrance of the harbour.

The Water of Leith is the only river in the vicinity of Edinburgh. It is but a ſmall ſtream, which empties itſelf into the Frith of Forth, and forms at Leith a pretty good harbour for the ſhipping. On its banks are erected the mills which manufacture flour, &c. for the city; alſo a very extenſive diſtillery for making whiſky. There is no tract of country, of equal dimenſions, in Scotland, where there is ſo little running water. In the bed of the river, a little below the mills, we have a ſtriking example of the rents or fiſſures in the ſtrata of ſtone being cemented and filled up with extraneous matter. It is a vein of whinſtone near 3 feet wide, traverſing the horizontal ſtrata in the bed of the river, which appears to have been introduced in a fluid ſtate, the rents of the ſtrata admitting the liquid maſs of whinſtone to flow in and unite them.

ST BERNARD'S WELL.

Many years ago, a mineral water was diſcovered to iſſue from the rock upon the ſide of the Water of Leith, a little above Stockbridge. It was incloſed with a ſtone building, but had been demoliſhed by the ſpeats of the river. The late Lord Gardenſtone, thinking highly of the quality of the water, and finding relief from drinking it, cauſed a very elegant temple to be erected over it, which contains a ſtatue of Hygeia, but which is too large for its ſituation *. This water is impregnated with iron and ſulphur, is light upon the ſtomach, and highly diuretic.

RESTALRIG.

About a mile to the eaſt of Edinburgh, in a hollow plain, ſtands the ruinous church of Reſtalrig. It was founded by James III. but, at the Reformation, the General Aſſembly ordered it to be demoliſhed; notwithſtanding this, the remains of a beautiful Gothic window, and part of the walls, remain. In the middle of the churchyard, there is a ſpacious vaulted mauſoleum, with yew trees growing upon its top, which belongs to the Earl of Moray.

The Frith of Forth contributes much to the riches and comfort, as well as the beauty of this part of the iſland. A communication being now formed with the weſtern parts, by means of the great canal, Leith, the port of Edinburgh, has now become a great ſea-port. The Frith affords fiſh in conſiderable abundance. Of late, the herrings have paid a viſit to it, and afford a cheap ſupply of food to the poor, as well as

* This circumſtance called forth the following epigram.

"*Heu! fuge fatales hauſtus, fuge virus aquarum,*
Quiſquis es, & damno diſce cavere meo;
Namque ego morborum domitrix Hygeia, liquorem
Guſtavi imprudens fœtis videbar anus.
Jam demiſſa humeros, & crure informis utroque
Riſubus à populo pretereunte petor.
At tu poſſibilibus Nymphis, ſolennia Bacchо
Fer ſacra, telluris ſic quoque fecit Herus."

"A finiſh'd beauty I from London came,
Grace and proportion had adorn'd my frame;
But raſh I taſted this impoiſon'd well,
And ſtraight ('tis true, tho' wonderful to tell)
To ſize gigantic all my members ſwell.
Whether thro' coal the fountain urge its courſe,
Or noxious metals taint its hidden ſource,
Or (envious neighbour) Cloacina ſtain
The ſtream with liquid from the Queen-ſtreet drain;
Th' effect is certain, tho' the cauſe obſcure.
My figure ought to frighten, not allure;
And, blameleſs tho' the ſkilful ſculptor's hand,
Not as a ſtatue but a beacon ſtand.
Thou! whom amuſement or diſtemper brings
To view the pillars, or to taſte the ſprings,
Warn'd by my fate, the naufeous draught decline,
The Lord erector's regimen be thine,
Abſtain from water, and indulge in wine."

a lucrative branch of traffic to the merchant. The iſlands in this part of the Forth are Inchkeith, three miles from Leith harbour; Inchcolm and Mickry, about four miles to the weſt; and Cramond Iſland, nearly the ſame diſtance. On the ſhores of the Firth are found ſpecimens of iron ſtone, particularly ſeptaria*, jaſpers, agates, flint, ſhorl, and zeolite.

INCHKEITH

Is a deſolate iſland. In ancient times it was uſed as a place of baniſhment, as appears from the following order of the Privy Council to the Magiſtrates of Edinburgh, in September 1497: "That all manner of perſons being within the freedom of this burgh, who are infected of the ſaid *contagious plague, called the Grandgore*, devoid, rid, and paſs forth of this town, and compeer upon the ſands of Leith, at ten hours before noon, and there ſhall have and find boats ready in the harbour, ordered to them by the officers of this burgh, readily furniſhed, with victuals, to have them to the *Inch*, (Iſland of Inchkeith), and there to remain till God provide for their health." A fortification was erected upon it about 1550. A conſiderable part of the fortalice, or caſtle, remains on the ſummit of the iſland, upon the north end of which the arms of Scotland are to be ſeen. Near this is a good ſpring of freſh water. Several ſheep are annually fed on the iſland. The eaſt ſide of this iſland preſents ſomething like baſaltic columns; they are of the moorſtone kind, minutely mixed with calcarious ſpar. Many of the maſſes found here have the appearance of petrified wood, and take a fine poliſh. It has very probably undergone a ſtrong heat. There is alſo plenty of limeſtone on the iſland; externally it reſembles oſteſtus. A ſtriated white calcareous ſpar is alſo found here, chiefly on the weſt ſide of the iſland; alſo madrepore and coral marble. Jaſper is likewiſe to be met with here: it is of a greeniſh colour, with a duſky line, and takes a fine poliſh. Agates, in detached nodules, are found on the ſhores of this iſland; but none have been diſcovered in the rock. Aſphaltum, or Jew's pitch, is found incloſed in ſhiſtus, in the fiſſures of the rock. The rocks on both ſides of the iſland abound with ſhorl. The moſt remarkable production is a ſtratum of flint, on the ſouth weſt ſide of the iſland. It lies under a bed of limeſtone, and appears to have been once in a liquid ſtate; for in many places, we find madrepores and marine ſhells incloſed in the flint, themſelves converted to a flint, and retaining their ſhapes entire. We believe many naturaliſts deny the exiſtence of a ſtratum of flint, but this affords an example to the contrary. The fact is of conſequence, too, in the great diſpute as to the formation of ſilicious and calcareous matter, by equeous or igneous ſolution. For here are found ſhells of the moſt delicate texture, converted to flint, and their ſhapes unimpaired. It is well known, too, that in many ſpecimens found in the chalk hills in England, the ſhells, though calcareous in the outſide, are filled with flint within; even thoſe of the moſt delicate ſtructure, as the ſea-egg. It is difficult to conceive, how ſuch changes could be effected by heat, and yet theſe delicate ſubſtances enabled to reſiſt it. In any experiments we can inſtitute, ſhells and ſuch bodies are very ſoon converted to lime by a moderate heat.

INCHCOLM.

This, too, is a ſmall iſland, chiefly compoſed of rock, and lies within a mile of the Fyſe coaſt. There is a fine ruin of its once famous monaſtery ſtill to be ſeen. There is at preſent a battery erecting on this iſland. This monaſtery was founded by Alexander I. in 1123. It is reported, that this Prince, when croſſing the Firth, was overtaken by a violent ſtorm, and driven upon Inchcolm. Its only inhabitant was a poor hermit, who gave him a very hoſpitable reception, and entertained

* This is particularly deſcribed by Dr Hutton, in the Edinburgh Phil. Tran. vol. I.

tained the King for three days, while ſtorm-bound, with the milk of his cow, and a few ſhell-fiſh. His Majeſty, in gratitude to the ſaint to whom he attributed his ſafety, here founded a monaſtery of Auguſtines, and dedicated it to St Columba. The rock of this iſland is chiefly a coarſe whin-ſtone. The rock of which the greateſt part of this iſland is compoſed, as well as that of Inchkeith, is ſimilar to that on which the Caſtle of Edinburgh ſtands. They are all exceedingly hard, and admit of a fine polith; particularly that on the ſouth ſide of theſe rocks. On the eaſt ſide, there is ſeen black ſhorl, projecting from a decayed ground of the whin-ſtone. In many places, fiſſures of calcareous ſpar interſect the rock.

CRAMOND ISLAND.

Cramond Iſland, nearly oppoſite to the former, lies within a mile of the ſouth ſhore. It is a flat iſland, and conſiderably larger than Inchcolm. It is famous as a rabbit warren. Both it and Inchcolm have been occupied, of late, as paſture ground for particular breeds of ſheep imported to this country by the Britiſh Wool Society.

To return to the hills. The environs of Edinburgh are perhaps the moſt picturеſque in the world. The noble appearance of the Frith, with the variegated face of the country, have a very ſtriking effect. All travellers ſeem to agree, that the view from the Calton-hill yields to none in Europe, if the banks of the Lake of Geneva be excepted. The largeſt hill in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh, is Arthur's Seat *. This hill has a broad baſe, but near the ſummit it riſes to a conical top. Its height from the baſe is 700 feet, and 796 above the level of the ſea. Adjoining to Arthur's Seat is Saliſbury Craigs†. Theſe preſent to the city an awful front of broken rocks and precipices, forming a ſort of amphitheatre of ſolid rock, whoſe ſummit is 550 feet in height. This rock is uſed for the pavement of the ſtreets of London and Edinburgh. Between theſe two hills, there is a recluſe valley. Immediately upon deſcending into this valley, the view of Edinburgh is totally loſt; the imperial proſpect of the city and caſtle, which theſe rocks in a manner overhang, is intercepted by Saliſbury Craigs. Seldom are human beings to be met in this lonely vale, or any creature to be ſeen, but the ſheep feeding on the mountain, and the hawks and ravens winging their flight among the rocks. This valley has much the appearance of a crater, long ago filled up in part, the weſt ſide, which forms Saliſbury Craigs, having yielded, and ſunk down on one ſide. There are a conſiderable variety of rock plants to be found on theſe hills, but we ſhall only take notice of that remarkable appearance, deſcribed by Dr Hutton in the Edinburgh Phil. Tran. vol. i. Towards the top of the hill, and ſurrounding a conſiderable part of it, there appears ſomething reſembling the withered graſs of a foot-path: The breadth of this ſtripe is from 9 to 12 inches; the length is conſiderable, 100 or 200 yards, extending from the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the ſouthmoſt hill through a hollow, and aſcending obliquely the ſhoulder of the ſummit of Arthur's Seat, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide. In the ſpring, about the month of April, the graſs begins gradually to wither and decay. It is perfectly dead in a little time, that is, a week or two, and then appears white or withered. Similar appearances extend from the ſouth ſide of the ſummit to the north ſide of the hill, half way down the plain; but none at the bottom. Parallel to each of thoſe tracts of withered graſs, there is another perfectly ſimilar, but of a black colour, as if made the year before, the graſs having taken root. This diſtance of the old from the new track, in general, is but a few inches. In ſome places, Dr

* So called, after *Arthur*, the Britiſh prince who, in the end of the 6th century, defeated the Saxons in that neighbourhood.

† This has its name from the Earl of Saliſbury, who accompanied Edward III. in an expedition againſt the Scots.

Hutton counted five or six ſucceſſions of theſe tracks, which muſt have followed each other in ſo many years. Theſe tracts all form ſegments of circles, the new ones always outwards, and of conſequence forming a part of a larger circle. From various conſiderations, Dr Hutton thinks this ſingular appearance can neither be owing to any electrical operation, nor to the operation of inſects; but he has not hazarded any theory of it himſelf.

The ſouth ſide of Arthur's Seat is, in many places, a perpendicular rock. This rock, at the ſouth-weſt corner, exhibits a range of baſaltic pillars, about 5 feet in diameter, of a pentagonal or hexagonal form, and from 40 to 50 feet high. At the bottom of the hill, on the ſouth-eaſt, is the beautiful lake of Duddingſton loch, about a mile and $\frac{1}{4}$ in circumference. On the north ſide of the hill, ſtands the old ruin of the chapel and hermitage of St Anthony. The ſpot was well adapted for an hermitage. Although in the neighbourhood of a populous city, it bore the appearance, and poſſeſſed the properties of a deſart. Sequeſtered from the reſt of mankind, the holy hermits might there dedicate their lives to devotion: The barrenneſs of the rock might teach them humility and mortification; the lofty ſite, and extenſive proſpect, would diſpoſe the mind to contemplation; and, looking down upon the royal palace beneath, they might compare the tranquillity of their own ſituation, preparing their minds for the ſcene of everlaſting ſerenity, which they expected hereafter, with the ſtorms which aſſailed the court, amidſt a tumultuous and barbarous people. At the foot of the rock is a pure ſpring of water, celebrated in the mournful ditty of "St Anton's Well."

CALTON HILL.

This hill ſtands on the north-eaſt ſide of the city. Its height is 350 feet from the level of the ſea. We have mentioned the extenſive and beautiful proſpect from this hill. To have the full benefit of it, a foot path was cut ſome years ago around the ſummit. Beſides the obſervatory, a bridewell has juſt been erected upon an extenſive and excellent plan by the late Mr Adam. On the ſouth-weſt ſide is a burying ground, at the utmoſt verge of which, ſtands the monument of David Hume, author of the Hiſtory of England, &c. It is a neat building in the Greek taſte, and of a circular form having two wings.

(*To be continued.*)

LETTER BY MADAME ROLLAND TO ROBESPIERRE.

FROM M. ROLLAND'S APPEAL TO IMPARTIAL POSTERITY.

Infirmary of St Pelagie, Oct. 23.

WITHIN theſe ſolitary walls, where oppreſſed innocence has now dwelt near five months with ſilent reſignation, a ſtranger appears.—It is a phyſician, brought by my keepers for their own tranquillity; for to the ills of nature, as to the juſtice of man, I neither can nor will oppoſe aught but calm fortitude. When he heard my name, he ſaid he was the friend of a man, whom I perhaps did not like.—"Why do you think ſo? Who is he?"—Robeſpierre."—"Robeſpierre! I have known him well, and eſteemed him much: I have thought him a ſincere and zealous friend of freedom."—"Is he not ſo?"—"I fear he loves power too: perhaps from an idea, that he knows how to do good as well as any man, and wills it not leſs. I fear he loves vengeance too much, and particularly to exerciſe it againſt them, by whom he ſuppoſes himſelf not admired. I believe he is very ſuſceptible of prejudice; eaſily moved to paſſion in conſequence; too ready to think every one guilty, who does not agree in all his opinions.—You have not ſeen him twice!—I have ſeen him much oftner!—Aſk him: let him lay his hand on his heart; and you will ſee whether he can ſpeak any ill of me."

Robeſpierre, if I deceive myſelf, I put

put it into your power to convince me, that I am wrong. To yourſelf I repeat what I have ſaid of you, and I will deliver to your friend a letter, which perhaps my keeper will ſuffer to paſs, on account of him to whom it is addreſſed.

I write not to entreat you, as you may ſuppoſe. I have never yet entreated any one: and certainly I ſhall not begin from a priſon, and with him who has me in his power. Prayer is for the guilty, or the ſlave: innocence teſtifies, which is quite ſufficient; or complains, to which ſhe has a right, when oppreſſed. But even complaint ſuits not me: I can ſuffer, without being affraid of what may happen. I know, too, that, at the birth of republics, revolutions almoſt inevitable, unfolding the paſſions of mankind too much, frequently expoſe them, who beſt ſerve their country, to become the victims of their own zeal, and of the errors of their contemporaries. Their conſciences will afford them conſolation, and hiſtory will be their avenger.

But from what ſingularity am I, a woman, incapable of any thing but wiſhes, expoſed to thoſe ſtorms, which uſually fall only on active perſons? And what fate is in reſerve for me? Theſe are two queſtions, which I addreſs to you.

I deem them of ſmall importance in themſelves, and with regard to myſelf perſonally: for what is a ſingle emmet more or leſs, cruſhed by the foot of the elephant, in the general ſyſtem of the world? But they are of infinite concern, with regard to the preſent liberty and future happineſs of my country. For if its declared friends, and avowed defenders, be confounded together with its confeſt enemies, without diſtinction; if the faithful citizen and generous patriot be treated in the ſame manner as the dangerous regarder of ſelf, and perfidious ariſtocrate; if the woman of ſenſe and virtue, who is proud of having a country, and, in her humble retirement, or whatever her ſituation, makes to it every ſacrifice in her power, finds herſelf aſſociated in puniſhment with the vain or haughty female who curſes equality; ſurely juſtice and freedom do not yet reign, and future happineſs is doubtful.

I ſpeak not here of my venerable huſband. His accounts ſhould have been examined, when they were delivered in: inſtead of refuſing to juſtify him at firſt, in order to accuſe him after having envenomed the public mind againſt him by ſlander. Robeſpierre, I defy you not to believe, that Rolland is an honeſt man. You may be of opinion, that he does not think juſtly, with reſpect to this meaſure, or that: but your conſcience muſt ſecretly do homage to his integrity and patriotiſm. He needs to be ſeen little, to be thoroughly known: the book of his heart is always open, and it is intelligible to every one. He has the ruggedneſs of virtue, as Cato had its tartneſs: his manners have procured him as many enemies as his inflexible equity: but theſe inequalities of ſurface diſappear at a diſtance, and the great qualities of the public man will remain for ever. It has been reported, that he fanned the flames of civil war at Lyons: and the reporters have dared to alledge this pretext as the cauſe of my apprehenſion! The ſuppoſition was not more juſt than its conſequence. Diſguſted with public affairs irritated at perſecution, tired of the world, ſinking under the burden of his toils and his years, he could do no more than groan in obſcure retirement, and bury himſelf in ſilence, to ſpare the world a crime.

He has corrupted the public mind, and I am his accomplice!—Surely this is of all reproaches the moſt curious, of all imputations the moſt abſurd. You, Robeſpierre, cannot deſire me, to take the trouble of refuting them here: the taſk would be too eaſy; and you cannot be of the number of thoſe good people, who believe a thing becauſe it is in print, and becauſe it has been told them. The pretenſion of my being an

acceſſory would be laughable; were not the whole rendered atrocious by the cloudy aſpect under which it is preſented to the people, who, ſeeing nothing, forms to its imagination ſome monſtrous figure of it knows not what. They muſt have an extreme thirſt of injuring me, who can hedge me thus, with premeditated brutality, into an accuſation, ſtrongly reſembling that charge of high-treaſon, ſo often repeated under the reign of Tiberius, to deſtroy all, whom, though guilty of no crime, it was reſolved to ſacrifice. Whence, then ariſes this animoſity? I cannot conceive: I, who never injured any one, who know not how even to wiſh harm to them who injure me.

Brought up in retirement; educated in thoſe ſerious ſtudies, which have unfolded my mind, and enabled it to diſplay ſome character; addicted to ſimple enjoyments, which no circumſtances have prevailed to alter; an enthuſiaſtic admirer of the revolution, and giving a looſe to the energy of the generous ſentiments it inſpires; remote from public tranſactions through principles as well as ſex, but converſing on them with warmth, becauſe the intereſts of the public become of all the firſt as ſoon as they exiſt: I regarded the firſt calumnies vented againſt me as contemptible follies; I deemed them the neceſſary tribute claimed by envy from a ſituation, which the vulgar had ſtill the imbecility to conſider as exalted, and to which I would have preferred the peaceful ſtate, in which I have ſpent ſo many happy days.

Theſe calumnies, however, have increaſed with effrontery proportionate to my ſerenity and exemption from fear: I have been dragged to priſon: and in confinement I have remained near five months; torn from the embraces of my young daughter, who can no longer recline her head on that boſom, from which ſhe drew her firſt nouriſhment; far removed from every thing dear to me; the butt of all the envenomed ſhafts of an abuſed people, that believes the loſs of my head would be conducive to its happineſs; hearing the guards, who watch under my grated window, ſometimes amuſe themſelves with anticipating my puniſhment: and reading the offenſive libels publiſhed againſt me by writers, who never ſaw my face, any more than thoſe, of whoſe hatred I am an object.

I have wearied no one with my remonſtrances: from time I expect juſtice, and the termination of prejudice: wanting many things, I have aſked for nothing: I have made up my mind to miſfortune, proud of oppoſing my ſtrength againſt hers, and keeping her at my feet. My neceſſities becoming urgent, and afraid of involving in trouble, thoſe to whom I might have addreſſed myſelf, I wiſhed to ſell the empty bottles in my cellar, which had not been ſealed up, becauſe its contents were of ſo little value. Immediately the whole quarter was in motion! the houſe was ſurrounded; the proprietor was taken into cuſtody; the guards were doubled; and perhaps I have reaſon to fear for the liberty of a poor nurſe, who has committed no crime but that of having ſerved me with affection thirteen years, becauſe I made her life comfortable. So much does the people, ſtunned with the cry of conſpiracy, and miſled with reſpect to me, ſuppoſe me deſerving the appellation of a conſpirator.

It is not to excite pity in you, Robeſpierre, to which I am ſuperior, and which perhaps I ſhould deem an inſult, that I preſent to you this picture, which I have conſiderably ſoftened: it is for your inſtruction.

Fortune is fickle; and popular favour is not leſs addicted to change. Contemplate the fate of them, who have agitated, pleaſed, or governed the people, from Viſcellinus to Cæſar, and from Hippo, the haranguer of the Syracuſans, to our Pariſian orator. Juſtice and truth alone remain, and afford conſolation for whatever may happen, even for death itſelf; whilſt nothing can ſhelter men from their ſtrokes. Marius

and

and Sylla proſcribed thouſands of knights, numbers of ſenators, and a multitude of unfortunate wretches. But could they ſtifle the voice of hiſtory, which has devoted their memories to execration? or could they taſte the cup of happineſs?

Whatever fate be reſerved for me, I can ſubmit to it in a manner worthy of myſelf; or anticipate it, if I think proper. After having received the honours of perſecution, are thoſe of martyrdom to crown the whole? am I deſtined to languiſh in protracted captivity, expoſed to the firſt cataſtrophe, that it may be judged requiſite to excite? or am I to be ſentenced to nominal tranſportation, to experience, when a few leagues at ſea, that trifling negligence on the part of the captain, which rids him of the trouble of his living cargo, to the profit of the waves? Tell me which: for it is ſomething to know our fate, and a ſoul like mine is capable of looking it in the face.

If you will be juſt, and read with reflection what I write, my letter will not be uſeleſs to you, and in that caſe it may poſſibly be of ſervice to my country. Be that as it may, Robeſpierre, I know, and you cannot but feel, that a perſon, who has known me, cannot perſecute me without remorſe.

ROLAND, formerly *Philipon.*

Note. The idea of this letter, the deſign of writing it, and the intention of ſending it, have remained in my mind for four-and-twenty hours: but what effect can my reflections have on a man, who ſacrifices colleagues, of whoſe integrity he is fully aſſured?

If my letter will do no ſervice, it would be ill-timed. It would only embroil me to no purpoſe with a tyrant, who may ſacrifice, but cannot debaſe me. I will not ſend it.

We ſhall lay before our readers ſome intereſting articles, from this celebrated work, in our next number.

LETTERS ON DUELLING*.

LETTER I.

From Thomas Gilles, Eſq; to Andrew Criſp, Eſq.

DEAR SIR,

THE concern I have for your welfare, as well for your own ſake, as for that of my good friend your father, who in ſome manner entruſted you to my care, obliges me to ſend you theſe few lines. I underſtand that you and Mr Orme have had high words, and that he has given you a challenge, and you are to meet next Saturday to decide the quarrel. Let me entreat you to conſider what you are about; and how you are entering upon a meaſure, that may, if you overcome, give you everlaſting inquietude and remorſe; and if you fall, muſt deſtroy in one raſh moment all the hopes of the beſt of parents, and in all probability your own ſoul; for a ſudden death admits of no repentance. I know what belongs to honour as well as any man, and can allow a great deal on this ſcore; but I think there is ſomething ſo impious, ſo preſuming in duelling; ſomething ſo contrary to the laws of God and man, ſo arrogant, in taking upon one's ſelf to be both our own judge and jury, that it is an execrable action, and deſerves puniſhment here, in caſe of ſurvival, as it will very likely meet with it hereafter. Wave therefore, I beſeech you, for God's ſake, for your family's ſake, for your own ſake, for my ſake, your reſentment on this occaſion, and ſubmit the cauſe between you to arbitration. I have a reſpect for Mr Orme, and ſhall write to him pretty much to the ſame effect; and hope you will both of you moderate your reſentments, and ſubmit the affair to ſome diſcreet friends; and I am ſure you will have cauſe to rejoice, both of you, that ye have followed my advice, when reflection takes place of the preſent heat, and will join to thank

Your truly affectionate
and faithful friend
THOMAS GILLES.

LETTER

* Said to be the genuine productions of Mr Richardſon, author of Pamela, &c.

LETTER II.

From Thomas Gilles, Esq; to John Orme, Esq.

SIR, I understand by Mr Wood, who was present, that on occasion of high words between you and Mr Crisp, you have sent him a challenge, and that next Saturday is appointed for the decision of the affair. I am heartily concerned for it; for I respect you both very much; and must beg you, as I have wrote to him to the same effect, to reflect in time on this vindictive measure, in which two angry young gentlemen think fit to arrogate to themselves the province that least belongs to them, no less than assuming a power over one another's lives, and to be their own judge and jury too. I have conjured Mr Crisp, by the duty he owes to God, to his parents, to himself, and the regard I claim for my affection for him, to wave this matter, and submit the affair to arbitration. I take upon me to do the same by you; and beg you will let these considerations have their proper weight with you. For why should ye, from a few rash words and misapprehension, precipitate yourselves on so fatal a measure, which may be equally pernicious to your souls and bodies? There is more true bravery in forgiving an injury than in resenting it. And I am sure you will both thank me for my interposition, if you will cooly consider what next Saturday may bring forth, if you should proceed, and how many happy years of life you may rob one another of; and even the survivor be haunted with such remorse as may make all his future days unhappy. Once more, I hope these friendly remonstrances will have their due weight with you; for they proceed from the honest heart of the true friend of you both,

THOMAS GILLES.

LETTER III.

From Andrew Crisp, Esq; to Thomas Gilles, Esq.

GOOD SIR,

I AM infinitely obliged to you for this fresh instance of your kind and tender concern for me. It is true, I thought of nothing less than of meeting Mr Orme to-morrow, according to his appointment. But if he has the same sentiments with which your kind and affectionate letter has inspired me, I am not averse to make the matter up with him, for the sake of all the considerations you so kindly mention. But as he gave the challenge, I judge the motion must come from him. And as you have wrote a letter to him, I cannot say but I should be glad he has in this instance (for I wish no other arbitrator than yourself,) as much deference and and respect to your kind interposition, as has, dear good Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

ANDREW CRISP.

LETTER IV.

From John Orme, Esq; to Thomas Gilles, Esq.

SIR,

IT is true I have desired a meeting of Mr Crisp, for I think he has used me in such a manner as one gentleman should not use another. But if he is willing to acknowledge his error, I shall not, for the sake of your kind interposition, and the motives you mention, decline putting it up. He may very safely leave his concerns to such a friend as yourself; and as I desire only a satisfaction for my honour, which I think has suffered from the usuage I have received from Mr Crisp, I am willing to leave the matter to your arbitration, being well assured of your honour and impartiality, and desirous to convince you how much I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

JOHN ORME.

LETTER V.

From Thomas Gilles, Esq; to John Orme, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

You have greatly favoured me by your kind confidence in me, in this the most desirable instance which you could give of your consideration for me. Mr Crisp has equally obliged me, by submitting

mitting the difference between you to my arbitration. Give me leave then, in purſuance of the truſt you have repoſed in me of arbitrating between you, to appoint one o'clock Saturday noon, at the Bedford-head, Covent-garden, for the place of meeting, over a ſmall collation: and I hope, Sir, you will come with a hearty diſpoſition to be reconciled, as I ſhall to do impartial juſtice between you. I give the ſame invitation by a line or two to Mr Criſp. I ſhall only bring with me Mr Wood and Mr Erſkine, who were preſent when the offence was given and taken; and I hope we five ſhall have reaſon to be pleaſed and rejoice in one another's company; and particularly in the happy change of the time, place, and occaſion of meeting.

To avoid all matter for freſh provocation, on the firſt meeting of two ſuch high-ſpirited gentlemen, I have ordered two rooms till I know each of your ſentiments, that I may, by a juſt and impartial arbitration, gather each of your demands, and be the better able to remove all difficulties when I bring you together, to the happy reconciliation I hope to ſee effected between you. I am, Sir,

Your ſincere friend and ſervant,
THOMAS GILLES.

LETTER VI.

From Thomas Gilles, Eſq; to Andrew Criſp, Eſq.

DEAR SIR,

MR ORME has obliged me by conſenting to leave the matter in diſpute, between you, to my arbitration, as you have alſo done. I have therefore appointed to-morrow, one o'clock, at the Bedford-head, Covent Garden, over a little collation that I ſhall order to be on the table by two. As Mr Wood and Mr Erſkine were preſent when the offence was given and taken, and are both men of honour, and common friends, I ſhall bring them with me. All I have to beg of you is, that you will not, by any youthful heat, fruſtrate the good end of this amicable meeting: for either you did intend by the words which Mr Orme took amiſs, to affront him, or you did not: if you did not, a ready and candid acknowledgement that you did not, will not fail, as I hope, of being accepted as it ought: if you did, and had no juſt cauſe, it will become a man of honour to own his fault, rather than by perſiſting in it to bring matters to extremities. The method I intend to take ſhall be this:

I have ordered two rooms to be taken, in one of which I will attend Mr Orme, to know what he takes amiſs, and what he inſiſts upon: and in the other I will attend you, to know your ſentiments in like manner. This I ſhall do, becauſe as you may both meet otherwiſe in high ſpirits, and with a ſenſe of having been injured in your honours, all freſh provocations may be avoided; and when I know both your ſentiments, I ſhall be better able to arbitrate with that juſtice and impartiality which it will become me to obſerve; and I hope the event will be anſwerable to my wiſhes, and a ſincere reconciliation be effected between you; and that you may equally rejoice for all your future lengthened lives, in the return of a day which might have been fatal to one or both. I have given Mr Orme notice in writing of the time and place, and beſought him, as I do you, to come with a hearty diſpoſition to a reconciliation; which if it can be effected, as I make no doubt, from the good ſenſe of the gentlemen I have to deal with, will be a moſt deſirable event to

Your truly affectionate
and faithful friend,
THOMAS GILLES.

LITERARY HISTORY OF THE PRESENT PERIOD.

IN comparing the preſent century with thoſe immediately preceding, it will not be found, that ſo much has been done toward the improvement of ſcience, as may

may be imagined by ſuperficial obſervers, and might have been expected from progreſſive experience. The philologiſts, orators, poets, hiſtorians, and novelliſts, of the ſixteenth and ſeventeenth centuries, were by no means inferior, and were, in ſome reſpects, ſuperior to thoſe of the eighteenth. In mixt mathematics, particularly in aſtronomy, ſome valuable, at leaſt curious diſcoveries have been made, from the great improvement of teleſcopes, and other inſtruments of obſervation. Mechanics have been carried to a much greater degree of perfection; and natural and experimental philoſophy have acquired a certitude and accuracy, beyond what they had in any prior period: pharmacy has alſo been purified from the dregs of former times; anatomy and chirurgery have been eagerly and ſucceſsfully cultivated; and the principles of the healing art have been ſimplified and better arranged.

Such are the parts of ſcience, with reſpect to which our age can boaſt ſome ſort of ſuperiority: for, with regard to the fine arts, as they are termed, we apprehend they are rather languiſhing than acquiring vigour. A partial or local improvement, in ſome of them, may have taken place, and has, no doubt, taken place in this nation: but we greatly miſtake, if, on the whole, they have not loſt more than they have gained.

Whether in political, moral, or religious knowledge, we are a whit wiſer than our foreſathers, appears to us a problem, that may be diſputed with equal plauſibility on both ſides of the queſtion.

New ſyſtems of ethics have been created, and baſes of various forms have been contrived for the ſtatue of Virtue; yet we think it muſt be confeſſed, that the goddeſs is not more ſincerely worſhipped, nor her votaries more numerous than in the days of our predeceſſors; we fear the reverſe is true.

As to theology, or the ſcience of religion, it has certainly undergone ſome conſiderable changes within theſe fifty years, and is apparently on the eve of ſtill greater alterations; but whether theſe alterations will produce a more genuine religion, time, the greateſt inſtructor, will ſhew how far our miſtruſt is grounded.

One thing, however, may be advanced as true: religion in general wears a more amiable face; intolerantiſm is no more her inſeparable companion; and mankind ſeem willing to go to heaven, without juſtling one another on the road. The principles of religion too have been more minutely examined; many inveterate prejudices explored; revelation grounded upon more rational motives of credibility; a number of various corruptions eliminated from the ſacred volumes with which the hand of time had tarniſhed them; and biblical criticiſm eſtabliſhed on ſuch principles, and guided by ſuch rules, as muſt neceſſarily tend to its perfection. This, therefore, is all well: yet if all this conduce not to meliorate the heart of man, to inſpire him with a greater degree of *the love of God and of his neighbour*; what will religion profit by it?

On the other hand, it is but too true, that irreligion has made great ſtrides during the ſame period. The metaphyſics of Hume, the eloquence of Bolingbroke, the learning of Freret, the wit of Voltaire, and the faſcinating logic of Rouſſeau (not to mention a numerous but leſs formidable tribe of inferior writers) have inflicted ſevere wounds on Chriſtianity, and ſpread the contagion of infidelity far and wide: even Atheiſm, who before lurked in corners, and covered his face with a deceitful veil, has recently ſhown himſelf without diſguiſe; and *Hammonds* and *Dantons* have appeared, have boldly dared the DEITY to puniſh them for diſbelieving his exiſtence. And this is called *The Age of Reaſon!*

Having thus given a ſhort view of the preſent ſtate of literature in general, we will next, in as few words as poſſible, and we flatter ourſelves with ſtrick diſtributive juſtice, aſſign to the different nations of Europe their reſpective ſhares.

(*To be Continued.*)

REMARKABLE HISTORY OF DON PEDRO KING OF PORTUGAL,

AND OF HIS UNFORTUNATE CONSORT DONA IGNEZ DE CASTRO.

CONTIGUOUS to the tranſept of the church belonging to the royal monaſtery of Alcobaca, fifteen leagues north of Liſbon, there is a Gothic mauſoleum of hewn ſtone, in the midſt of which are two magnificent ſepulchres, of white marble, containing the remains of Don Pedro the firſt, King of Portugal, and of Dona Ignez de Caſtro, his conſort.

There are but few perſonages recorded in hiſtory, who have been oftener celebrated by dramatic writers than this Princeſs. There have been no leſs than five tragedies formed from her pitiful narrative; viz. two in Engliſh, one in French, one in Spaniſh, and one in Portugueſe. The latter, perhaps, approaches the neareſt to the truth of hiſtory, and is not inferior in point of poetical merit. The author, Senhor Nicola Luis, had no occaſion to reſort to fiction to heighten the paſſions of an audience, as the ſimple facts are ſufficient to fill up all the ſcenes of pity and terror, and to ſhew to what lengths love and revenge are capable of tranſporting the human mind.

The ſubject of this tragical piece is as follows: Don Pedro, ſon of Alonſo the fourth, King of Portugal, and heir apparent to the crown, having fallen in love with a lady of the court, named Dona Ignez de Caſtro, thought he could not ſhare the crown which awaited him with a more amiable perſon. She united to all the charms of beauty, the moſt graceful and accompliſhed manners. The prince, waving all conſiderations of birth and fortune, was privately married to her by the biſhop of Guarda.

Notwithſtanding the nuptials were performed with all the ſecrecy imaginable, yet they reached the King's ear, who had premeditated a conſort for Don Pedro in the King of Caſtile's daughter. He queſtioned him as to the truth of the report; but knowing his father's arbitrary diſpoſition, he thought it prudent then to conceal the fact.

The nobility alſo had intimation of the marriage, and the preference given to Ignez had awakened their jealouſy. Hence they took every opportunity of repreſenting her as a woman of the greateſt ambition, and pretended that very fatal conſequences were to be apprehended from ſuch an alliance: they alſo condemned the prince as a raſh and diſobedient ſon.

The King, who was a man of weak underſtanding, gave ear to their calumny, and they worked upon his paſſions to that degree, that he reſolved to murder the unfortunate Princeſs. Accordingly, he ſet out to perpetrate the horrid deed, accompanied by three of his courtiers, and a number of armed men.

Dona Ignez at this time reſided in Coimbra, in the palace of Santa Clara, where ſhe paſſed her time in the moſt private manner, educating her children, and attending to the duties of her domeſtic affairs.

The Prince, unfortunately, was abroad on a hunting party, when the King arrived. The beautiful victim came out to meet him, with her two infant children, who clung about his knees, ſcreaming aloud for mercy. She proſtrates herſelf at his feet, bathes them with tears, and ſupplicates pity for her children, beſeeching him to baniſh her to ſome remote deſert, where ſhe would gladly wander an exile with her babes.

The feelings of nature arreſted his arm, juſt raiſed to plunge a dagger into her breaſt. But his counſellors urging the neceſſity of her death, and reproaching him for his diſregard to the welfare of the nation, he relapſed into his former reſolution, and commanded them to diſpatch her; at which they ruſhed forward, regardleſs of the cries of innocence and beauty, and inſtantly ſtruck off her head!

This affecting ſcene forms part of an epiſode on the Luſiad of Camoens, thus tranſlated by Mr Mickle:

Dragg'd from her bower by murderous ruffian hands,
Before the frowning King fair Inez ſtands;
Her tears of artleſs innocence, her air
So mild, ſo lovely, and her face ſo fair,
Mov'd the ſtern monarch; when with eager zeal
Her fierce deſtroyers urg'd the public weal;
Dread rage again the tyrant's ſoul poſſeſt,
And his dark brow his cruel thoughts confeſt;
O'er her fair face a ſudden paleneſs ſpread,
Her throbbing heart with generous anguiſh bled,
Her beauteous eyes in trembling tear-drops drown'd,
To heaven ſhe lifted, but her hands were bound;
Then on her infants turn'd the piteous glance,
The look of bleeding woe; the babes advance.
The lovely captive thus:—O monarch, hear,
If e'er to thee the name of man was dear,
If prowling tygers, or the wolf's wild brood,
Inſpir'd by Nature with the luſt of blood,
Have yet been mov'd the weeping babe to ſpare,
Nor left, but tended with a nurſe's care;
As Rome's great founders to the world were given;
Shalt thou, who wear'ſt the ſacred ſtamp of heaven,
The human form divine, ſhalt thou deny
That aid, that pity, which e'en beaſt ſupply?
Oh, that thy heart were, as thy looks declare,
Of human mould, ſuperfluous were my prayer;
Thou could'ſt not then a helpleſs damſel ſlay,
Whoſe ſole offence in fond affection lay.
Ah, let my woes, unconſcious of a crime,
Procure mine exile to ſome barbarous clime:
Give me to wander o'er the burning plains
Of Lybia's deſarts, or the wild domains
Of Scythia's snow-clad rocks and frozen ſhore;
There let me, hopeleſs of return, deplore
Where ghaſtly horror fills the dreary vale,
Where ſhrieks and howlings die on every gale,
The lions roaring, and the tygers yell,
There with mine infant race conſign'd to dwell;
There let me try that piety to find,
In vain by me implor'd for human kind:
There in ſome dreary cavern's rocky womb,
Amid the horrors of ſepulchral gloom,
For him whoſe love I mourn, my love ſhall glow,
The figh ſhall murmur and the tear ſhall flow.

In tears ſhe utter'd—as the frozen ſnow
Touch'd by the ſpring's mild ray, begins to flow;
So juſt began to melt his ſtubborn ſoul,
As mild-ray'd pity o'er the tyrant ſtole;
But deſtiny forbade: with eager zeal,
Again pretended for the public weal,
Her fierce accuſers urg'd her ſpeedy doom;
Again dark rage diffus'd its horrid gloom
O'er ſtern Alonzo's brow: ſwift at the ſign,
Their ſwords unſheath'd around her braniſh'd ſhine;
O foul diſgrace, of knighthood laſting ſtain,
By men of arms an helpleſs lady ſlain!

—— Inez, while her eyes to heaven appeal,
Reſigns her boſom to the murdering ſteel:
That ſnowy neck, whoſe matchleſs form ſuſtain'd
The loveliеſt face, where all the graces reign'd,
That ſnowy neck was ſtain'd with ſpouting gore,
Another ſword her lovely boſom tore.
The flowers that gliſten'd with her tears bedew'd,
Now ſhrunk and languiſh'd, with her blood imbrew'd,
As when a roſe erewhile of bloom ſo gay,
Thrown from the careleſs virgin's breaſt away,
Lies faded on the plain, the living red,
The ſnowy white, and all its fragrance fled;
So from her cheeks the roſes dy'd away,
And pale in death the beauteous Inez lay:
With dreadful ſmiles, and crimſon'd with her blood,
Round the wan victim the ſtern murderers ſtood.
O ſun, couldſt thou ſo foul a crime behold,
Nor veil thine head in darkneſs, as of old,
A ſudden night unwonted horror caſt
O'er that dire banquet, where the fires repaſt,
The ſon's torn limbs ſupplied!—yet you, ye vales!
Ye diſtant foreſts, and ye flowery dales!
When pale and ſinking to the deathful fall,
You heard her quivering lips on Pedro call;
Your faithful echoes caught the parting ſound.
And Pedro! Pedro! mournful, ſigh'd around.

Luſiad, book 3.

Soon after the above tranſaction the Prince arrived; but, alas! found thoſe eyes that were wont to watch his return with impatience, cloſed in death. The ſight of his beloved Ignez weltering in gore filled his mind with diſtraction, and kindled every ſpark of revenge within his ſoul. In all the agony of rage, he called aloud on the avenging hand of heaven to puniſh thoſe moniſters who deprived him of all he held dear upon earth.

As ſoon as her remains were interred, he put himſelf at the head of an army, who ſympathized with his diſtreſs; they carried fire and ſword through the ad-

adjacent provinces, and laid waſte the eſtates of the murderers. The royal troops could not oppoſe them; they fled at the appearance of the gallant avengers of innocence. But the king, wretched man! could not fly from himſelf; the cries of his grand children ſtill echoed in his ears, and the bleeding image of their unfortunate mother was conſtantly before his eyes. Death at laſt commiſerated his ſituation, and he expired full of repentance for his accumulated crimes. He was an undutiful ſon, an unnatural brother, and a cruel father.

The Prince now aſcended the throne, in the thirty-ſeventh year of his age. He no ſooner obtained the power, than he meditated to revenge the death of his beloved Ignez. The three murderers, namely, Pedro Coello, Diogo Lopez Pacheo, and Alvaro Gonſalvez, had fled into Caſtile, previous to the death of the late King. The Prince ordered them to be tried on a charge of high treaſon, and being found guilty, their eſtates were confiſcated. Next, he contrived to ſeize their perſons, by agreeing with the King of Caſtile, that both ſhould reciprocally deliver up the Portugueſe and Caſtilian fugitives, who ſought protection in their reſpective dominions. Gonſalvez and Coello were accordingly arreſted, and ſent in chains to Portugal; Pacheo eſcaped into France.

The King was at Santerem when the delinquents were brought to him; he inſtantly ordered them to be laid on a pyre that was previouſly formed, contiguous to which he had a banquet prepared. Before the torch was kindled, and while they agonized at every pore under the moſt lingering tortures, their hearts were cut out, one at his breaſt, the other at his back. Laſtly, the pyre was ſet on a blaze, in preſence of which he dined, while they evaporated in flames.

Having thus far appeaſed his inſatiable thirſt of revenge, he ordered his marriage with Dona Ignez to be publiſhed throughout the kingdom; then her body was taken out of the ſepulchre, covered with regal robes, and placed on a magnificent throne, around which his miniſters aſſembled, and did homage to their lawful Queen.

After this ceremony, her corpſe was tranſlated from Coimbra to Alcobaca, with a pomp hitherto unknown in the kingdom; though the diſtance between theſe two places is fifty two miles, yet the road was lined on both ſides all the way, with people holding lighted tapers. The funeral was attended by all the noblemen and gentlemen in Portugal, dreſſed in long mourning cloaks; their ladies alſo attended, dreſſed in white mourning veils.

The cloud which the above diſaſter caſt over the mind of Don Pedro was never totally diſperſed; and as he lived in a ſtate of celibacy the remainder of his life, agreeably to his vow, there was nothing to divert his attention from ruminating on the fate of his beloved ſpouſe. The impreſſion her death made on him was ſtrongly characteriſed, not only in the tortures he inflicted on her murderers, but alſo in all the acts of his adminiſtration, which, from their ſeverity, induced ſome to give him the appellation of Pedro the Cruel; by others he was called Pedro the Juſt: and, upon the whole, it appears that the laſt title moſt properly appertained to him.

It muſt be allowed, however, that he puniſhed ſome offences rather ſeverely, particularly in caſes of adultery. In all tranſgreſſions of this nature, his laws were more rigid than thoſe of Solon, as will appear by the following inſtances: he ordered a man to be hanged for having had communication with a woman previous to his marriage with her. Another, detected in the act of adultery, was, with his miſtreſs, committed to the flames. A friar, who was diſcovered to be the father of a boy who ſtruck his nominal father, was put into a caſe formed of cork, and ſawed through the body.

Now, it is ſurpriſing that Don Pedro himſelf ſhould have been guilty of ſins

ſimilar to thoſe for which he inflicted ſuch ignominious deaths on others. Yet ſuch is the fact: witneſs his amours with Dona Tereza Lorenza, by whom he had that illuſtrious character Don John, the founder of Batalha.

Indeed, his manner of puniſhing other offences was leſs reprehenſible. To give an inſtance: a gentleman having borrowed ſome ſilver utenſils of a countryman, refuſed, after many ſolicitations, to return the ſame; upon which the lender, finding all other means ineffectual, appealed to the King, who made the gentleman not only return the goods to the owner, but alſo pay him nine times their value, the penalty to which thieves were then ſubject; and further, made him reſponſible for the countryman's life.

The clergy, who hitherto could not be tried for alleged offences but by the eccleſiaſtical court, he rendered amenable to the common courts of juſtice, and puniſhed them with death when their crimes were capital. When ſolicited once to reviſe the ſentence of ſuch criminals, and to refer it to a higher tribunal, (meaning that of the Pope) he anſwered very calmly, "I ſhall moſt certainly ſend them to the higheſt of all tribunals, that of the Omnipotent Being."

To prevent all tedious litigations, and the baneful conſequences attending them, he purged the nation of attornies, and limited the procedure of counſellors in ſuch a manner, that a ſuit was determined in a few days. And when the judge was found guilty of bribery, as was the caſe in one inſtance, he immediately ordered him to be hanged. In ſhort, his inexorable juſtice, and indefatigable zeal to check the progreſs of vice, were ſuch, that no conſideration of rank, or fortune, or particular privileges, could ſcreen the guilty from the ſword of the law. The infinite ſervice he rendered the country during the ten years he reigned, have left a laſting impreſſion on the minds of the Portugueſe. They have ſtill a ſaying among them, "that Providence either ſhould not have ſent Pedro, or elſe not have taken him away."

The two Engliſh tragedies that have been formed from this melancholy hiſtory of Ignez de Caſtro, are entitled Elvira, and Inez de Caſtro.

Murphy's Travels.

THE DECAYED ENGLISH MERCHANT AND HIS DAUGHTER.

FROM PRATT'S GLEANINGS.

A MERCHANT of conſiderable eminence in London, was reduced to the ſituation of poor Baſſanio, and from preciſely the ſame run of ill-luck in his ſea-adventures—

> The dangerous rocks,
> Touching his gentle veſſel's ſide,
> Had ſcattered all his ſpices on the ſtream,
> Enrob'd the roaring waters with his ſilks,
> And not one veſſel 'ſcap'd the dreadful touch
> Of merchant-marring rocks.

To theſe miſcarriages abroad were added ſimilar calamities at home. Several great houſes broke in his debt; and with the wrecks of his fortune, gathered together, he left the metropolis, and took refuge in the mountains of Montgomeryſhire. A little girl, then only nine years of age, his only ſurviving child, was the ſole companion of his retreat, and ſmiled away his miſfortunes. The care of her education was his moſt certain relief from the corroding reflections of the paſt; and the certainty of her poſſeſſing, at his death, ſufficient to prevent a good mind from the horrors of dependence, ſoftened his thoughts of the future; the preſent was filled up with the delights of ſeeing her ambition yet humbler than her fortunes, and literally bounded by the objects that ſurrounded her. To tend the flowers ſhe had ſet with her own hand, to nurſe the ſhrubs ſhe had planted, to ſport with and feed the lamb ſhe had domeſticated, to ſee it follow her in her rambles, and to liſten to the melodies of nature, as they murmured in the waters or echoed through the woods, were her chief amuſements without doors, and by a thouſand love-taught du-

duties to make a father forget that he had ever been unhappy or unfortunate, her dearest study within. Of her personal attractions I shall say little: a single line of Thompson's gives the truest image of them, and of the unaffected mind by which they were illumined.

Artless of beauty, she was beauty's self.

It is not easy to be wretched in the constant society of perfect innocence: the company of a beautiful child, wholly unpolluted by the world, affords one the idea of angelic association. Its harmlessness appears to guarantee one from harm: we reflect, nay we see and hear, almost every moment it is climbing our knees, playing at our side, engaging our attentions, or reposing in our arms, the words and acts of an unspotted being; and we can scarce be persuaded, any real ill can befall us, while a companion so like a guardian cherub is near. When the babe is our own—say, ye parents, how the sensation is then exalted!—Which of you, having at your option the loss of the amplest fortune, or of the feeblest infant, would not cleave to the last, and resign the former? or, if any of you balanced a moment, would not one lisping word, one casual look, turn the scale in favour of nature, and make you think it a crime to have hesitated?

Such were the sentiments of the merchant, and under their cheering influence he lived many years, during which, a few mountain peasants, an old relict of his better days, as a servant, who had been nurse to the young lady, and his daughter, were the only objects with whom he conversed. So powerful is habit, that we assimilate to persons, places, and things, that on our first introduction to them, we might imagine, neither philosophy, custom, nor religion, could make supportable. We are surprised to find we attach to them, even to endearment. In time, even our former habits, no less strong in us, are but slightly remembered; and those pursuits, diversions, and societies, without which it once appeared impossible we should ever pass a day, are yielded for others, that it *then* would have been thought as impossible even to have endured. Our merchant would have deemed the company of a monarch an intrusion; and the jargon of the Exchange, which had for so many years been music to his ears, could not now have been borne. I have here given you some of his own expressions. At length he fell sick: His daughter was then in her eighteenth year; the disorder was of a gradual kind, that threatened to continue life after one has ceased to love it, and to close in death. He lingered eleven weeks; and the old domestic being now superannuated and almost blind, his daughter was at once his nurse, his cook, his consoler, and might truly be said to make his bed in his sickness. She wanted not the world to teach her the filial duties. Her own pure heart supplied them all, and her own gentle hands administered them. But now, for the first time of her existence, she added to her father's anguish. It almost kills me to look on you, my only love, cried he, with an emphasis of sorrow, and bursting into tears.

I am sure, (replied she, falling on her knees at his bed-side) it has almost killed me to hear you say so; and if it would make my dearest father better, I would kill myself this moment, and trust in God's mercy to forgive me. Ah, my child! you mistake the cause and motive of my regrets, resumed the parent—the thoughts of leaving you without protection, there is the bitterness. I am not going to be left, said she, rising hastily: I have a presage you will be well soon; and I am a great prophetess, my beloved father. Be in good spirits, for I am sure, you will recover. I have sent to Montgomery and Welch Pool; and to morrow, I am to have the two best doctors in Wales.

Your goodness is always a comfort, my darling (replied the desponding merchant:) but two thousand Welch doctors could not set me again on my legs.

—If

—If indeed I was in a condition to procure——but that's impoſſible!

Procure what?—whom?—Nothing is impoſſible, anſwered his daughter with the moſt eager haſte.

I have an idle and romantic faith in the only man in the whole world that knows my conſtitution; and he is as far beyond my reach, as if he were out of exiſtence. Good heaven! you mean Dr ——, exclaimed the daughter. I have heard you often ſpeak of his having twice before ſaved your precious life; for which I have had him in my nightly prayers ever ſince, and ſhall go on bleſſing him to the hour of my death. O, that I were a man to fetch him!

The father preſſed her tenderly in his feeble arms, in acknowledgement of her affection; but told her, that, from a multiplicity of other claims, it would be as impoſſible for the doctor to get down to Wales, as for himſelf to go out of his ſick-bed to London. Do not, therefore, let us think of it, my child, continued the father, ſince it is only the aggravation of a vain wiſh, to know that it muſt end in diſappointment. —I am reſigned.

(*To be continued.*)

ON THE DISADVANTAGES WHICH HAVE ATTENDED THE INTRODUCTION OF NERVES.

SIR,

IT may appear ſtrange to you to receive a letter containing a ſerious and formal complaint againſt any part of the human body; becauſe, as that is not of our forming, and every part is given for the beſt purpoſes, it is at leaſt a mark of very great preſumption in any one to find fault. However this may be, Sir, I have my doubts whether the ſubject of the preſent complaint be any of the works of nature, whether men and women were not born originally without it, and whether it has not lately been introduced as a pretended improvement on the human frame, by certain perſons, who not being content with what nature has allotted them, are even endeavouring to ſupply the ſuppoſed deficiency with ſomething artificial.

The ſubject of my preſent complaint, Sir, is what is, or *are* called the NERVES; for I believe few people make a diſtinction whether they be plural or ſingular. I ſhall not enter into an anatomical hiſtory of them, nor attempt to determine whether they proceed from the brain, or from the ſpinal marrow. I do not, however, think the former probable, becauſe I have obſerved, that they who have moſt nerves have feweſt brains, and *vice verſa*; and as to their proceeding from the ſpinal marrow, the queſtion would be too intricate, and my language too technical for a miſcellany of entertainment like yours. But it is neceſſary to ſay, what I believe agrees with the experience of all grown perſons, that our anceſtors knew them only by name, and that they are a very modern improvement, or addition, or what you will, to our catalogue of corporeal qualifications. A venerable aunt of mine avers that there were no nerves in her day, that ſhe has lived ſixty-nine years without them, and hopes to be carried to her long home without them. The ſame declaration, I am well aſſured, has been made by ſundry ancient and ſage matrons of this kingdom.

The queſtion then comes to be, at what period *nerves* were firſt introduced, and for what purpoſe? The latter part of this queſtion will come to be conſidered hereafter. In the mean time, it is for our conſideration at what period nerves were firſt introduced? This is attended with ſome difficulties. It appears to me, that the conſtruction of nerves bears ſome analogy to the planting of oak timber. It is planted by one generation, makes a progreſs in a ſecond, a further progreſs in a third, and comes to perfection in a fourth. Nerves, therefore, were the work of a long time, before they arrived at the perfection in which we now find them, and before they became ſo general as to extend from the palace of the prince to the hut

of

of the peasant. Leaving this matter somewhat undetermined as to the exact point of time, let us consider what is the probable cause of nerves, and how they are constructed.

A very eminent chemist, to whom I applied on this occasion, chiefly on account of his skill in anatomy, told me that it belongs particularly to his branch of business to determine this question. "From *anatomy*," said he, you will receive very little satisfaction, but from chemistry you may expect to have your doubts pretty nearly removed. Nerves came in either with the distillery, or with tea, and their advancement has been in a regular progression with the use of the still and the kettle. It is, therefore, either by boiling or distillation that people attain a sufficient quantity of nerves, to enable them to be neighbour-like, and furnish a constant theme of conversation. It is with great justice, therefore, that nerves are reckoned no part of the human body, but a modern addition drawn from the sugar cane and sundry other foreign vegetables, by means of fire. True it is, it may not be easy to determine whether a lady or gentleman owes her or his nerves more to one of these causes than to the other; but wherever you find a proper assortment of genteel nerves, you may certainly attribute them either to the one or the other, either to boiling or distillation. This, indeed, creates a certain confusion in phrases and terms, which is not easy to get over; the fact is, that when we introduce any novelty in art or science, we are obliged to speak a figurative kind of language, by borrowing the terms of one art to express another. For example, when a person complains that his *spirits* are *low* on Tuesday, we commonly say that they must have been *over-proof* on Monday, and so on of many others, with which I shall not at present trouble you.

Such is the substance of my learned friends' communication on this subject, the truth of which I have been enabled to confirm by pretty long experience. I have, in the first place, sir, a wife whom I married for love, for she had not one penny of fortune, and yet notwithstanding this latter circumstance, she is in possession of a most watchful and irritable collection of nerves, and enjoys a perpetual state of trepidation. I had the curiosity to keep a register of her alarms for the last year, 1795, and found they amounted to nine hundred and forty-six, very nearly three per day, a number almost incredible; but your wonder will cease, when I tell you that it is the peculiar nature of nerves to take the alarm at what occasions no kind of uneasiness to any thing, or any body else. The falling of a china-cup, the sudden shutting of a door, the barking of a dog, or the scream of a cat, whose tail happens to be trod upon, are all sufficient for a most lovely trepidation, and a charming paleness of colour. And yet, sir, she has the most careless and unmannerly servants, and is never without lap-dogs and kittens in every part of the house, not to speak of a collection of parrots, canary birds, and linnets, whose cries and disorders are regularly transferred into her frame, as if by magic, physical sympathy, or philosophical association of ideas. Nor am I safe from the misfortune of being the innocent cause of much confusion among the nerves. If I return soon from an engagement, she is shocked to think I am not well. If I stay late, she is sure some accident has befallen me. Happy would it be were our nights quiet and peaceable; but fire and thieves are two misfortunes we are every night exposed to, and one or other of them has broke my first sleep for the last twenty years, although she never goes to bed without seeing all the fires out, and waiting till the stoves are cold; and as to robbery, it is almost physically impossible in our situation. Were it otherwise, I should think six or eight months quiet very cheaply bought at the price of a few spoons and butter-boats.

But this is not all. Little did I think

I have been all this while propagating a race of nerves to plague future generations. Our children inherit a moſt plentiful commodity. They ſcream with their mother in uniſon, and if I but ſuddenly *hem* three or four times in a morning to clear my pipes (a right ancient and wholeſome cuſtom) they have ſuch palpitations! Not one of them will venture into a dark room or paſſage for the world, and when they aſcend the ſtairs to bed, the ſervants guard them on all ſides, leſt one thief ſhould be before, and another behind them. Should but a cat jump haſtily out of a room on this occaſion, we are all in fits, and even the neighbours begin to complain, that there is more noiſe and frightful cries in our houſe, than in any other in the whole ſtreet. About a month ago, we performed our reſpective parts in a very admirable ſcene. A couſin of mine from the country took up his reſidence with us for a few days. One day, I happened to breakfaſt abroad, and on returning about twelve o'clock, found my family in the utmoſt confuſion; my wife almoſt diſtracted, my daughters and ſon, altogether ſo. For ſome time, I could not learn the cauſe of this, but at length it turned out to be a very lamentable buſineſs indeed. Our couſin had not come down at the uſual hour to breakfaſt. The maid had knocked again and again at his room-door; no anſwer; the miſtreſs had knocked, my daughters had knocked, and my ſon had knocked, and John the footman had knocked, but all was as ſtill as the grave. The concluſion therefore was, that he was dead, and it was equally plain that he had been murdered. What confirmed them in this opinion was, firſt, that he was a young man, and had gone to bed in good health; and, ſecondly, that daylight was ſeen under his door. The thief (for we are never without them on ſuch occaſions) had entered by the window, performed the bloody deed, and departed the ſame way, and they *dared ſay* had taken my couſin's watch and money, and what elſe he could get. I was not very much alarmed at this account, it being nothing new; for I recollected I had been twice murdered in the ſame manner ſome time before. "But" ſaid I, "have any of you been in the room?" This was anſwered by a No! expreſſive of the greateſt horror, and ſome ſurpriſe, that I ſhould expect they would encounter ſo ſhocking a ſight. "It does not ſignify, my dear, if none of you have been in the room, I muſt go: I will have no dead bodies in this houſe, without providing decently for them," and was riſing, when they all clung about me, begging for God's ſake I would not go unarmed.

Why, what occaſion is there for arms?

You don't know, my dear what may happen.

What *can* happen, my dear, the man's dead, and there is an end to his power; and if he is not dead, what can we fear from him?

Then we will all go with you, I am determined on that.

As you pleaſe, my dear; but you, John, you cowardly blockhead, why did not you go? You know my couſin never ſleeps with the door bolted.

Why, my dear, it is not John's fault, indeed: I would not let him go.

And pray why would not you let him?

Becauſe you know, my dear, people might ſay it was him that did it.

Pſhaw! come along.

The proceſſion began, myſelf in front, my wife and children, ſupported on each ſide by the ſervants, the door was opened by my adventurous hand, when lo! no couſin dead or alive was to be found! I know not how long their confuſion and aſtoniſhment would have laſted, nor whether they would not have concluded that the devil had run away with the murdered man, if my couſin had not made his appearance, booted and ſpurred, and juſt returned from an early ride which he was induced to take from the fineneſs of the morning, and for that purpoſe had ſtolen out of the

the houſe before the family were up. It was to no purpoſe I took this opportunity to throw out ſome reflections upon *nerves*, not much to their credit. My wife was not pleaſed that her favourite apprehenſions were diſappointed; "ſuch things had often happened," and they had all heard "the death-watch" the night before. My couſin expreſſed his regret for being the innocent cauſe of this confuſion; but, I know not how it was, the family looked as cool upon him for ſome time, as if they had doubted whether he was dead or alive.

Thoſe who conſult their *nerves* do not like to be diſappointed. If they hear a noice, and determine that it proceeds from thunder, a thief, or a fire-engine, they are generally chagrined to find that it is only a cart, a cat, or a ſtage-coach. Now, as I am a lover of peace and concord, I have long ceaſed my oppoſition to the nervous ſtarts and alarms of my family, however inconvenient. In ſummer, indeed, I am much leſs expoſed to them than in winter, becauſe they commence regularly at ſun-ſet, and therefore we have for ſome years been ſtrangers to the comforts of long nights, and fire-ſide merriment. What human wiſdom could do, has, indeed, been done. Our houſe is as regular a fortification as the laws of the city will permit. We have no baſtions, nor outworks, nothing that Cochorn or Vauban would derive credit from: but all that bolts and bars can do, has been conſtantly attended to. Our very cats, if they wiſh to carry on an intrigue without doors, muſt repair to the place of aſſignation before ſun-ſet, however diſagreeable it may be to wait; for after the doors and windows are ſhut, all egreſs and ingreſs is denied to the whole animal creation. Every room door is doubly barred and locked; bells communicate from one room to another, which has this happy advantage, that any ſleepleſs individual may diſturb the whole houſe, by a ſingle pull. I once propoſed fire-arms, but that muſt be upon no account allowed, for as my wife very properly obſerves, "no one can know what may happen, and they may go off themſelves." As to danger from fire, beſide being amply inſured, every bed-room is provided with a fire-eſcape, upon a new conſtruction, and which, from the ſtate of nerves in my houſe, I am certain would anſwer very little purpoſe; for they who are too nervous to walk down ſtairs, in caſe of alarm, would not do the buſineſs much better by going out of the window.

Such ſir, are ſome of the inconveniencies I am ſubjected to from my family being poſſeſſed of nerves. I could increaſe the catalogue very conſiderably, were I not afraid of ſwelling my letter to an unwarrantable ſize. I ſhall only add, therefore, that it would not be amiſs, if after providing for our ſafety by every proper means which human ſkill or wiſdom can ſuggeſt, we were to go to ſleep in quiet, truſting that all other protection ſhall be extended to us by the Giver of every Good. Let me add, too, that vain fears, and continual apprehenſions, are by no means the beſt poſſible proofs of Chriſtian philoſophy, nor of Chriſtian reſignation; that the day of evil will come, if ordained, whether we guard againſt it, or not; and that the loſs of a few moveables, which could be eaſily replaced, is nothing, and leſs than nothing, when compared with the miſeries of a life ſpent in the anticipation of misfortune, and in preſages of evil. C.

EXPERIMENTS made to determine the poſitive and relative QUANTITIES of MOISTURE abſorbed from the ATMOSPHERE, by various SUBSTANCES, under ſimilar CIRCUMSTANCES;

BY SIR BENJAMINE THOMPSON, KNT. F. R. S.

BEING engaged in a courſe of experiments upon the conducting powers of various bodies, with reſpect to heat, and particularly of ſuch ſubſtances as

are commonly made uſe of for clothing, in order to ſee if I could diſcover any relation between the conducting powers of thoſe ſubſtances, and their power of abſorbing moiſture from the atmoſphere, I made the following experiments:

Having provided a quantity of each of the under-mentioned ſubſtances,* in a ſtate of the moſt perfect cleanneſs and purity, I expoſed them, ſpread out upon clean china plates, twenty four hours in the dry air of a very warm room, (which had been heated every day, for ſeveral months, by a German ſtove), the laſt ſix hours the heat being kept up to 85° of Fharenheit's thermometer; after which I entered the room with a very accurate balance, and weighed equal quantities of theſe various ſubſtances, as expreſſed in the following table.

This being done, and each ſubſtance being equally ſpread out upon a very clean china plate, they were removed into a very large uninhabited room, upon the ſecond floor, where they were expoſed forty-eight hours, upon a table placed in the middle of the room, the air of the room being at the temperature of 45° F.; after which they were carefully weighed, (in the room), and were found to weigh as undermentioned.

They were then removed into a very damp cellar, and placed upon a table, in the middle of a vault, where the air, which appeared by the hygrometer to be completely ſaturated with moiſture, was at the temperature of 45° F.; and in this ſituation they were ſuffered to remain three days and three nights, the vault being hung round, during all this time, with wet linen cloths, to render the air as damp as poſſible, and the door of the vault being ſhut.

At the end of the three days I entered the vault with the balance, and weighed the various ſubſtances upon the ſpot, when they were found to weigh as is expreſſed in the third column of the following table.

N. B. The weight made uſe of in theſe experiments was that of Cologne, the *parts* or leaſt diviſion being $\frac{1}{65536}$ part of a mark; conſequently 1000 of theſe *parts* make about $52\frac{3}{4}$ *grains troy*.

I did not add the ſilver wire to the bodies above mentioned from any idea that that ſubſtance could poſſibly imbibe moiſture from the atmoſphere; but I was willing to ſee whether a metal, placed in air ſaturated with water, is not capable of receiving a ſmall addition of weight from the moiſture attracted by it, and attached to its ſurface; from the reſult of the experiment, however, it ſhould ſeem that no ſuch attraction ſubſiſts between the metal I made uſe of

* The various ſubſtances.	Weight after being dried 24 hours in a hot room.	Weight after being expoſed 48 hours in a cold uninhabited room.	Weight after being expoſed 72 hours in a damp cellar.
	Parts.	Parts.	Parts.
Sheep's wool,	1000	1084	1163
Beaver's fur,	1000	1072	1125
The fur of a Ruſſian hare,	1000	1065	1115
Elder-down,	1000	1067	1112
Silk { raw, ſingle thread,	1000	1057	1107
Silk { ravelings of white taffety,	1000	1054	1103
Linen { fine lint,	1000	1046	1102
Linen { ravelings of fine linen,	1000	1044	1082
Cotton wool,	1000	1043	1089
Silver wire, very fine, gilt, and flatted, being the ravelings of gold lace,	1000	1000	1000

of and the watery vapour diſſolved in air.

I was totally miſtaken in my conjectures relative to the reſults of the experiments with the other ſubſtances. As linen is known to attract water with ſo much avidity, and as, on the contrary, wool, hair, feathers, and other like animal ſubſtances, are made wet with ſo much difficulty, I had little doubt but that linen would be found to attract moiſture from the atmoſphere with much greater force than any of thoſe ſubſtances; and that, under ſimilar circumſtances, it would be found to contain much more water; and I was much confirmed in this opinion upon recollecting the great difference in the apparent dampneſs of linen and woollen cloths, when they were both expoſed to the ſame atmoſphere. But theſe experiments have convinced me that all my ſpeculations were founded upon erroneous principles.

It ſhould ſeem that thoſe bodies which are the moſt eaſily wet, or which receive water in its unelaſtic form with the greateſt eaſe, are not thoſe which, in all caſes, attract the watery vapour diſſolved in the air with the greateſt force.

Perhaps the apparent dampneſs of linen, to the touch, ariſes more from the eaſe with which that ſubſtance parts with the water which it contains, than from the quantity of water it actually holds; in the ſame manner as a body appears hot to the touch, in conſequence of its parting freely with its heat; while another body which is actually at the ſame temperature, but which withholds its heat with greater obſtinacy, affects the ſenſe of feeling much leſs violently.

It is well known that woollen clothes, ſuch as flannels, &c. worn next the ſkin, greatly promote inſenſible perſpiration. May not this ariſe principally from the ſtrong attraction which ſubſiſts between wool and the watery vapour which is continually iſſuing from the human body?

That it does not depend entirely upon the warmth of that covering is clear; for, the ſame degree of warmth, produced by wearing more clothing of a different kind, does not produce the ſame effect.

The perſpiration of the human body, being abſorbed by a covering of flannel, is immediately diſtributed through the whole thickneſs of that ſubſtance, and by that means expoſed, by a very large ſurface, to be carried off by the atmoſphere; and the loſs of this watery vapour, which the flannel ſuſtains on the one ſide, by evaporation, being immediately reſtored from the other, in conſequence of the ſtrong attraction between the flannel and this vapour, the pores of the ſkin are diſincumbered, and are continually ſurrounded by a dry, warm, and ſalubrious, atmoſphere.

I am aſtoniſhed that the cuſtom of wearing flannel next the ſkin ſhould not have prevailed more univerſally. I am confident it would prevent a multitude of diſeaſes; and I know of no greater luxury than the comfortable ſenſation which ariſes from wearing it, eſpecially after one is a little accuſtomed to it.

It is a miſtaken notion that it is too warm a clothing for ſummer. I have worn it in the hotteſt climates, and in all ſeaſons of the year, and never found the leaſt inconvenience from it. It is the warm-bath of a perſpiration confined by a linen ſhirt, wet with ſweat, which renders the ſummer heats of ſouthern climates ſo inſupportable; but flannel promotes perſpiration, and favours its evaporation; and evaporation, as is well known, produces poſitive cold. I firſt began to wear flannel, not from any knowledge which I had of its properties, but merely upon the recommendation of a very able phyſician, (Sir Richard Jebb), and, when I began the experiments of which I have here given an account, I little thought of diſcovering the phyſical cauſe of the good effects which I had experienced from it; nor had I the moſt diſtant idea of mentioning the circumſtance. I ſhall be happy, however, if what I have ſaid, or done,

upon the ſubject, ſhould induce others to make a trial of what I have ſo long experienced with the greateſt advantage, and which, I am confident, they will find to contribute greatly to health, and conſequently to all the other comforts and enjoyments of life.

I ſhall then think theſe experiments, trifling as they may appear, by far the moſt fortunate, and the moſt important ones I have ever made.

With regard to the original object of theſe experiments, the diſcovery of the relation which I thought might poſſibly ſubſiſt between the warmth of the ſubſtances in queſtion, when made uſe of as clothing, and their powers of attracting moiſture from the atmoſphere, or, in other words, between the quantities of water they contain and their conducting powers with regard to heat, I could not find that theſe properties depended in any manner upon, or were in any way connected with, each other.

From the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of London.

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

OBSERVATIONS ON COINS*.

Sir,

I should be happy if a few obſervations that occur to me, upon a ſubject that I know to be extremely intereſting to many perſons of taſte throughout Britain, were deemed worthy of being diffuſed through the medium of your literary journal; as they are humbly intended to promote improvement in an elegant art, intimately connected with the *Belles Lettres*, and on which, I will venture to ſay, the reputation of the preſent times for induſtry, ingenuity, and arts, muſt in a great meaſure, depend at periods of the lateſt poſterity.

Such of your readers as have not ſtudied, or contracted a reliſh for the ſubject, may ſmile when they learn that I allude to the deſigns and execution of the moſt common current coins of the preſent day, known by the name of *provincial halfpence*; being iſſued by private traders for circulation, in Great Britain, chiefly ſince the year 1786, and which, in ſome diſtricts, have almoſt totally ſupplanted the preſent very baſe and barbarous national copper currency. To thoſe who are not aware of the importance of the numiſmatic ſtudy, I would recommend, as introductive to their knowledge in it, Addiſon's Dialogues; the Writings of Folkes, De Cardonnel, and Snelling; but eſpecially the late excellent publication of the ingenious Mr Pinkerton†.—There are others, in whom the bare mention of the topic will excite the livelieſt attention to my remarks.

Excepting the coins of the Romans, there has nothing occurred parallel to theſe, within ſo ſhort a period, ſince during the æras of the ancient independent ſtates of Greece, when almoſt every city had its own diſtinct coinage, as is elegantly illuſtrated by the engravings and deſcriptions of Dr Combe‡. Our modern coins of cities in Britain excel the ancient in neatneſs of finiſh, from the uſe of the mill, and invention of indenting letters round the outer edge, as much as they fall ſhort of them in the high relief and boldneſs of execution, in the repreſentations which they bear; but in their great variety, and moſt caſes, appropriate imagery, they approach the neareſt to the merit of the Roman reverſes, of any thing that has appeared in the mint-ages of modern times.

It is, however, deeply to be regretted, by every lover of the fine arts, that ſo many of theſe pieces are degraded by puerile and contemptible devices: ſuch are all emblems of particular trades, or articles of dealing; mere deſignations and ſign-poſts; and almoſt all morſels of heraldry, eſcutcheons, mottos, ſupporters, &c. Theſe can tranſmit no

* This came too late for inſertion laſt month.

† Eſſay on Coins and Medals, London, Edwards, 2d. Edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 1789.

‡ Num. veterum populorum et urbium 4to. London, Cadell, 1782.

thought,

thought, no *information* to poſterity. The amazing durability of coins ſhould be ever remembered by thoſe who are concerned in iſſuing them; and ſuch deſigns adopted as may reflect the moſt ſtriking, and important features of the preſent times. Among ſeveral hundreds of differently deſigned pieces in my poſſeſſion, ſuch only as come under ſome of the five following deſcriptions ſeem to deſerve being ſignalized and recommended to imitation:

I. Such as have *fac ſimiles* of remarkable buildings; *e. g.* The *Canterbury* halfpenny, bearing the cathedral; the *York* one, with the noble minſter; reverſe, Clifford's tower: the Leeds cloth-hall appears upon one of the *Leeds* tokens; the weſt-front of St Paul's church upon a *London* one; Ipſwich-croſs, a neat relique of ancient architecture, graces the *Ipſwich* halfpenny; as an old tower, a very entire remain of gothic labour, does that of *Dundee;* the venerable ruins of Bigod's caſtle in Suffolk is on that of *Bungay;* one of *Bedal*, in Yorkſhire, gives a ſtreet in perſpective, two inns, and a ſpire; the ſplendid front of the new pump-room, embelliſhes halfpence and farthings of *Bath*, &c. Theſe medals may exhibit to future times the forms of the ſtructures which they bear, long after their originals ſhall have faded and mouldered in the duſt:

Ambition ſigh'd—ſhe found it vain to truſt
The faithleſs column, and the crumbling buſt;
Huge moles, whoſe ſhadows ſtretch'd from ſhore to ſhore,
Their ruins periſh'd, and their place no more!
Convinc'd, ſhe now contracts her vaſt deſign,
And all her triumphs ſhrink into a *coin*.

POPE.

The Abbeys of Melroſe, Paiſley, St Andrews, Arbroath, &c. and the beſt modern buildings in Edinburgh and Glaſgow, would be deſirable objects for Scottiſh provincial pieces.

II. Others afford repreſentations of the great and uſeful undertakings of the preſent times; ſuch as the iron-bridge over the Severn, on the *Colebrook-Dale* halfpenny; reverſe, the inclined plane at Ketley: *Thames and Severn canal piece*, has a barge ſailing; reverſe, a maſſy acqueduct bridge: a *Kent* halfpenny, on the union of Appledore, has a wind-mill, the miller, and his houſe; the great iron-works of *Wilkinſon* are differently pourtray'd on his currency. It is to be lamented, that among the few ſtruck for Scotland, not one comes under this deſcription. How ornamental and honourable would it be, for ſome of them to bear the figures, and perpetuate the dates of the erection of the greateſt foundery in the world at *Carron;* the north-bridge at *Edinburgh;* the elegant bridges at *Perth* and *Glaſgow;* the great quay at *Aberdeen;* or the vaſt and uſeful aqueduct over the *Kelvin*, ſupporting, at a ſtupendous elevation, one of the greateſt canals in Europe!

III. Striking emblems of that ſpirit of induſtry and commerce, which characterizes the preſent times, and eſpecially the Britiſh nation. One payable at *Ipſwich*, has "may God preſerve the plough and ſail;" a team in a field, and a ſhip in full ſail, coming into view behind a headland: a weaver is at work upon a *Haverhill* coin; reverſe, a plough and ſhuttle: ſhips in full ſail are meet *inſignia* of the trade of *Liverpool, Yarmouth, Shields, Portſea*, and the *Cinque Ports;* as a ſheep, reverſe, a woolen weaver, is of the manufacture of *Rochdale;* and a hop-plantation of the beſt product of the county of *Suſſex;* the rapid and uſeful mail-coach, and exhibitions of whale-ſiſhing, and hat-making, are ſeen upon different *London* pieces, &c.

IV. Illuſtrious characters and remarkable men, in Britiſh hiſtory, have now their features tranſmitted to "diſtant climes and ages," upon common currency; which, perhaps, conveys "the charge of Fame*," better than expenſive medallions. Newton, Shakeſpeare, Johnſon, Howard, Howe; and the founders, or greateſt benefactors of

* Pope.—Verſes to Addiſon on his Dialogues on Medals.

Ba

Bath, *Southampton*, *Lancaſter*, &c. are honoured upon pieces of general circulation; on this department, however, it muſt be obſerved with regret, that the portraits are, in general, far from being accurate; though perhaps, not leſs ſo than the effigies of Roman Emperors, a e given by the degenerate mintages of the lower Empire: the ſcarce ones of which are collected with ſo much eagerneſs and expence, without regard to the contemptible or deteſtable characters of their proto-types. Ours are not leſs worthy of being ſtyled the

Conciſum argentum in titulos, faciesque minutas*.

In this reſpect alſo, Scotland creeps at more than her uſual diſtance behind the Siſter Kingdom. Why are the features of Buchanan, Napier, the admirable Crichton, Hume, Robertſon, Cullen, and Reid, conſigned to the fugitive materials, and faithleſs charge of paper and canvas, and not a ſingle medal † recording their likeneſſes to poſterity?

V. Some, laſtly, are merely curious; the engraver James has been very ſucceſsful in two landſcapes upon the oppoſite ſides of his *Dudley* token; and his elephant upon the *Pidcock* exhibition pieces, is at leaſt as well repreſented as the ſame animal is by old Roman artiſts, upon *denarii*, of the family *Cæcilia*, or upon thoſe of *Julius*, and of *Auguſtus*.

I ſhall conclude this paper, with earneſtly ſoliciting the attention of all companies and individuals, who may henceforth be diſpoſed to employ the artiſts of Birmingham, London, &c. to fabricate coins for them, to the foregoing obſervations, which, I humbly flatter myſelf, will be approved by every perſon of taſte who has made the medallic art a ſtudy; and it is much to be wiſhed, that particular injunctions were given to the engravers, to have the figures on the piece much bolder and higher raiſed than is uſually done, which is effected by having them more deeply cut into the dye; and the dotted circle by which the figures on the field are protected, ſhould be much ſtronger, and more elevated; the ſhapes of even moſt of theſe pieces which I have commended, are too thin and broad; they ſhould be increaſed in thickneſs, even though their circumference ſhould be thereby diminiſhed.

There has juſt now been communicated to me a ſmall copper coin; the $\frac{1}{72}$ part of a rupee, done for the Eaſt India Company by Mr Boniſtone of Birmingham, upon a new principal, admirably calculated to preſerve both the figures, and legend from being ſoon defaced by attrition:—the whole field of the piece is protected by a circle, broad, plain, and conſiderably elevated, into which the letters are *indented* in *intaglio*, in the ſame form as they uſually are round the external rim.

It may, perhaps, be objected, that theſe improvements will occaſion an additional expence, and conſequent reduction of the profits of circulation; but it is to be conſidered, that even if leſs weight of copper were given in that form, the public would be no loſer, becauſe the pieces would be greatly leſs liable to wear by friction, than when almoſt the whole rough ſurface is expoſed to continual rubbing, as by the preſent ſtyle of inſipid *bas relief*. Let it be impreſſed upon the mind of every citizen, that this is a ſubject in which, as a great maſter* of it has told us, "THE PERPETUAL GLORY OF THE NATION IS INTERESTED."

CIVIS.

From a Country fire ſide,
Feb. 1796.

* Juvenal, in his Vth Satire.

† Beſides the meed of merit given to diſtinguiſhed Engliſhmen on provincial coins, many elegant medals have been ſtruck of them. See Snelling's plates.

* Pinkerton's Eſſay, vol. 2. (note) p. 148.

OB-

OBSTACLES TO HUSBANDRY.

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

AS the honourable Board has condeſcended to aſk our opinion, of the ſuppoſed obſtacles to improvement in agriculture, it is humbly ſubmitted to their attention, whether the moſt uſeful ſcience would not be greatly aſſiſted, if the opulent manufacturers were made to contribute, in a larger proportion, to the neceſſities of their weavers, when driven to their pariſh by diſtreſs, than is the caſe at preſent; for although it may be replied, that there is already a law for this purpoſe, it is found ſo difficult to be put in practice, that it is not attempted here at preſent.

Other obſtacles may be the total want of leaſes, or the ſhort terms and ſtrict and penal covenants ſometimes inſiſted upon by gentlemen of property, which prohibits that return which is neceſſary, to induce a man to diſburſe his property in the improvements of the natural ſoil; and were the land owners to conſider, that, except in a very few inſtances of converting meadows and old leys into tillage, deſtroying timber, &c. their and their tenants real intereſts are the ſame, for the greater part of a leaſe; they would ſee it to be their own and the public advantage, to ſuffer their tenants to manage the land in ſuch way, as would beſt enable them to pay their rents with punctuality, and almoſt give them their own covenants, till the term came within five or ſix years of its expiration; when, perhaps it might be nothing more than policy, to guard againſt the poſſibility of abuſe, by laying down ſome rules to govern their conduct, in thoſe particulars, where their intereſt militates againſt that of their landlords; but any certain fixed method, or rotation of management, will ever be diſadvantageous to the growth of corn, ſo long as ſeaſons are uncertain, and the many caſualties a farmer is liable to, (which no art or induſtry can prevent) continue to perplex him. If it ſhould be thought this liberal conduct on the part of the landlord, might lay his good nature open to the deſigns of an artful tenant, who might think himſelf at liberty to crop his land, as long as it would pay him for the tillage, and then reſign or ſell his leaſe: it may be anſwered, that, if the certainty of loſing his character, would not operate ſufficiently upon him, to prevent ſuch impolitic meaſures in a tenant, they might eaſily be provided againſt by a clauſe in the leaſe, calculated for that end; or, by an indemnification of ſome other ſort, before the leaſe was granted.

Another circumſtance which would aid the plough, it is conceived, is liberty to the poor to ſeek a livelihood wherever work offers, or inclination leads them to ſeek for it, inſtead of being ſubject to be taken up, if found out of their own pariſh, and carried, to what is called their place of ſettlement, at the caprice of an overſeer, to ſit at home, or what is worſe, while they have any credit left, at the ale-houſe, for want of employ: labourers will then, it is preſumed, naturally be led to reſide, where they could render moſt ſervice to the community, and have a proſpect of ſupporting themſelves and families, without being reduced to the mortifying application of an unfeeling pariſh officer. The rates would be leſs heavy, the land better tilled, at a ſmaller expence than at preſent, and both the rich and poor would feel the benefit.

Another hindrance to the improvements, which men of property and ſpirit might otherwiſe make, particularly in regard to waſte and uncultivated land, is the preſent mode of rewarding the labours of the clergy. Could the honourable Board ſuggeſt ſome fair equivalent, which would make that moſt valuable member of ſociety, the farmer, ſecure in all the juſt gains of his laborious endeavours, without injuring the legal rights of the church, it would confer the moſt ſubſtantial benefit on the landed intereſt in general, aſſiſt morality and good neighbourhood, and give comfort to the tithe-gatherer, as well

well as to the landlord and the huſbandman, all of whom, were the ſubject properly underſtood, it would not be difficult to ſatisfy.

A further improvement, which ſeems to follow that of a commutation of tithes, and would increaſe the growth of the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life, would be, empowering the clergy, to grant leaſes of the church lands, for ſuch terms, as would inſure their tenants a reaſonable time to reap the fair returns of the beſt modes of huſbandry; for as they are now circumſtanced, no permanent improvements are attempted, the land lies half cultivated, and ſeems, in almoſt every pariſh you go through, to plead for better treatment, by the unexampled poverty of its appearance.

An object, not perhaps beneath the notice of this moſt uſeful inſtitution, is thought to be a general commiſſion of ſewers, for the repairs and preſervation of the ſea-walls along the coaſt, which protect the lands moſt capable of improvement, from the deſtructive inundations of the ſalt water, which is known to leave ſuch fatal effects behind it, that the land is not worth the tillage for ſeveral years after it has been overflown; beſides, that the expence and trouble which may have been laid out upon it, are for ever loſt. At preſent, it is common for the owners of land, to manage their own walls, according to their own diſcretion, by which means, the neglect of an individual, may cauſe not only ruin to himſelf, but to many of his more careful neighbours, and ſpread a general diſtreſs around him.

It cannot, we flatter ourſelves, be thought foreign to the preſent ſubject to remark, that, as the juſtice done to the labourers, by thoſe with whom they lay out their little earnings, muſt, in ſome degree, affect the price of work here; officers are appointed to ſecure that deſireable end, not known in every county in the kingdom. Two men are nominated for that purpoſe, at a certain annual ſalary (25l. each), whom we call public weighers, whoſe buſineſs it is to go to the ſeveral parts of the county, and examine the weights of all millers and ſhopkeepers, and make returns of thoſe in whoſe poſſeſſion any light weight is found, to the quarter ſeſſions, by whoſe authority they act: and whenever complaint of this ſort is made, the ſuſpected dealer is ſummoned to appear at the following ſeſſions, where, if he is unable to acquit himſelf of the charge alleged againſt him, he is ſure to be expoſed, and otherwiſe puniſhed, in proportion to his demerits.

(*To be continued.*)

From the Report delivered to the Board of Agriculture.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

Cultivation of the Early Potatoe.

CUT the ſets, and put them on a room floor, where a ſtrong current of air can be introduced at pleaſure; lay them thin, about two or three lays of depth, cover them with oat-ſhells of ſaw-duſt, to the thickneſs of about two or three inches: this, at the ſame time that it ſcreens them from the froſt, affords a moderate degree of warmth, which cauſes them to vegetate; but, at the ſame time, admits air enough to harden the ſhoots: the doors and windows are to be open as often as the weather is mild enough to admit of its being done with ſafety. The ſets muſt be frequently examined, and when the ſhoots have ſprung an inch and a half, or two inches, the covering is to be carefully removed, either with a wooden rake, or the fingers. In this manner they muſt remain until the planting ſeaſon, taking care to give them all the air poſſible by the doors and windows when it can be done with ſafety; by this method the ſhoots will become broken, put out leaves, and be moderately hardy. In this way *four crops have been raiſed*, upon the ſame ground, *in one year*; taking care always to have

ſets

ſets from the repoſitory ready to put in as ſoon as the others are taken up. A crop of winter lettuce is ſometimes raiſed afterwards from the ſame land.

We are enabled to ſay, from experience, that *two crops* may be obtained *from the ſame ground yearly*, with great eaſe, and afterwards a crop of coleworts or greens.

To raiſe two good Crops in one Year.

THE method that has, from experience, been found moſt ſucceſsful, is, to plant the ground in the ſpring, with the beſt early potatoe (managed in the way already quoted *) theſe will be ready in the beginning of ſummer: the ſoil ſhould then be ploughed once, and planted either with the large white Kidney or Killimanca, the ſets of which ſhould be cut at leaſt ſix weeks or two months before they are planted. They ſhould be kept in a place where both air and light may have free acceſs to them, by which means their ſhoots will be ſtrong and vigorous; and as they will then have no froſts to encounter, they will grow immediately when they are put into the earth. The operations of planting ſhould be performed with the greateſt care, in order to preſerve the ſhoots from being broken, as in that caſe the crop will be rendered conſiderably later.

Perhaps there is no way of doing this ſo completely as with a ſtick; in this way the plant is not only placed at a proper depth, but the ſhoot is preſerved and ſet upright in ſuch a way, that the top is equal with the ſurface. It will certainly be objected to this mode of planting, that it requires more labour than the ordinary method of dropping the ſets into the furrow; but, when properly conſidered, this objection will vaniſh, as three people with dibbles will plant as many in one day, as two perſons could do in the ordinary way.

If this compariſon as to the difference of expence is juſt, and we believe it is very near the truth, it will appear, that dibbling requires only a third more labour than dropping the ſets into the furrows; to balance which, the young tender ſhoots are preſerved, none of the plants are liable to be bruiſed by the horſes feet, and the work is regularly and accurately performed.—N. B. The Royal or Cumberland early, is moſt recommended for the *firſt crop*, it being of a large ſize, very prolific, of an excellent flavour, and ripens early enough to admit of another crop.

The reaſon for preferring the Kidney or Killimanca, for the ſecond crop, is obvious; both of theſe are more productive than any of the early potatoes; and as the price, at an advanced period of the ſeaſon, is always conſiderably lower, any potatoe that will produce a greater bulk will be more profitable.

There is, beſides, another reaſon of conſiderable weight; it is found, from experience, that when ſucceſſive crops of potatoes are taken from the ſame land, the ſecond and ſucceeding crops are always more abundant when a different kind of potatoe is planted. This circumſtance is well worth the attention of farmers, as, by a due obſervance of it, they may plant potatoes for years upon the ſame ſoil, with profit to themſelves, and without injury to the property.

A crop of this kind of potatoes will be ready to take up about the beginning or middle of October. Indeed, if the real kidney is planted, they will be ready in September, when ſufficient time will remain either for a crop of greens, coleworts, or a broad caſt crop of turnips, to be eaten off in the ſpring with ſheep. Theſe are not matters of conjecture: the Author of the preſent memoir had, laſt year, two very abundant crops of potatoes from a patch of ground in his garden, which was afterwards planted with coleworts, which were very large before the winter ſet in. No manure was made uſe of for the firſt crop of potatoes, and only a ſmall quantity of new earth (part of the ſub-ſoil of the ſame garden) was given to the ſecond. It is worthy of remark, that the

* See vol. 57. p. 17. method in Lancaſhire.

the ſecond crop was not planted till the end of June; and though the ſeaſon was exceedingly dry throughout, the crop was very productive.

As the extending the culture of potatoes, and in particular the obtaining *an early crop*, muſt be extremely beneficial to the poor, it is humbly ſubmitted to the gentlemen of every pariſh, whether it will not be humane and politic to furniſh, at their expence, ſeed, to all ſuch poor as may be inclined to cultivate the ſame; and in order to make ſuch cultivation as extenſive as poſſible, will it not promote that end greatly, by ſuffering the poor to plant upon all the head-lands, and ſuch other places where corn cannot be ſown; and alſo on the road ſides, and all other waſte lands, as the poor will take the trouble of breaking up? *Report of the Committee of Board of Agriculture.*

OF THE SENTIMENTS OF THE SOUL.

CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 92.

Of the Sentiment of Admiration.

THE ſentiment of admiration tranſports us immediately into the boſom of Deity. If it is excited in us by an object which inſpires delight, we convey ourſelves thither as to the ſource of joy; a terror is rouſed, we flee thither for refuge. In either caſe, admiration exclaims in theſe words, "Ah, my God!" This is, we are told, the effect of education merely, in the courſe of which frequent mention is made of the name of God; but mention is ſtill more frequently made of our father, of the king, of a protector, of a celebrated literary character. How comes it, then, that when we feel ourſelves ſtanding in need of ſupport, in ſuch unexpected concuſſions, we never exclaim, "Ah, my King!" or, if ſcience were concerned, "Ah, Newton!

It is certain, that if the name of God be frequently mentioned to us, in the progreſs of our education, the idea of it is quickly effaced in the uſual train of the affairs of this world; why then have we recourſe to it in extraordinary emergencies? This ſentiment of nature is common to all nations, many of whom give no theological inſtruction to their children. I have remarked it in the Negroes of the coaſt of Guinea, of Madagaſcar, of Caffraria, and Moſambique, among the Tartars, and the Indians of the Malabar coaſt; in a word, among men of every quarter of the world. I never ſaw a ſingle one who, under extraordinary emotions of ſurprize or of admiration, did not make, in his own language, the ſame exclamation which we do, and who did not lift up his hands and his eyes to heaven.

Of the Marvellous.

The ſentiment of admiration is the ſource of the inſtinct which men have, in every age, diſcovered for the marvellous. We are hunting after it continually, and every where, and we diffuſe it, principally, over the commencement and the cloſe of human life; hence it is that the cradles and the tombs of ſo great a part of mankind have been enveloped in fiction. It is the perennial ſource of our curioſity; it diſcloſes itſelf from early infancy, and is long the companion of innocence. Whence could children derive the taſte for the marvellous? They muſt have fairy-tales: and men muſt have epic poems and operas. It is the marvellous which conſtitutes one of the grand charms of the antique ſtatues of Greece and Rome, repreſenting heroes or gods, and which contributes, more than is generally imagined, to our delight, in the peruſal of the ancient hiſtory of thoſe countries. It is one of the natural reaſons which may be produced to the Preſident Henault, who expreſſes aſtoniſhment that we ſhould be more enamoured of ancient hiſtory than of modern, eſpecially that of our own country: the truth is, independently of the patriotic ſentiments which ſerve, at leaſt, as a pretext to the intrigues of the great men of Greece and Rome, and which were ſo entirely unknown

unknown to ours, that they frequently embroiled their country in maintaining the intereſts of a particular houſe, and ſometimes in aſſerting the honour of precedency, or of ſitting on a joint ſtool; there is a marvellous in the religion of the ancients, which conſoles and elevates human nature; whereas that of the Gauls terrifies and debaſes it. The gods of the Greeks and the Romans were patriots, like their great men. Minerva had given them the olive; Neptune the horſe. Theſe gods protected the cities and the people: But thoſe of the ancient Gauls were tyrants, like their barons; they afforded protection only to the Druids: They muſt be glutted with human ſacrifices. In a word, this religion was ſo inhuman, that two ſucceſſive Roman emperors, according to the teſtimony of Suetonius and Pliny, commanded it to be aboliſhed. I ſay nothing of the modern intereſts of our hiſtory; but ſure I am, that the relations of our politics will never replace in it, to the heart of man, thoſe of the divinity.

I muſt obſerve that, as admiration is an involuntary movement of the ſoul toward Deity, and is, of conſequence, ſublime, ſeveral modern authors have ſtrained to multiply this kind of beauty in their productions, by an accumulation of ſurpriſing incidents; but nature employs them ſparingly in hers, becauſe man is incapable of frequently undergoing concuſſions ſo violent. She diſcloſes to us, by little and little, the light of the ſun, the expanſion of flowers, the formation of fruits. She gradually introduces our enjoyments by a long ſeries of harmonies; ſhe treats us as human beings; that is, as machines feeble and eaſily deranged; ſhe veils Deity from our view, that we may be able to ſupport his approach.

The Pleaſure of Myſtery.

This is the reaſon that myſtery poſſeſſes ſo many charms. Pictures placed in the full glare of light, avenues in ſtraight lines, roſes fully blown, women in gaudy apparel, are far from being the objects which pleaſe us moſt. But ſhady vallies, paths winding about through the foreſts, flowers ſcarcely half-opened, and timid ſhepherdeſſes, excite in us the ſweeteſt and the moſt laſting emotions. The lovelineſs and the reſpectability of objects are increaſed by their myſterioufneſs. Sometimes it is that of antiquity, which renders ſo many monuments venerable in our eyes; ſometimes it is that of diſtance, which diffuſes ſo many charms over the objects in the horizon; ſometimes it is that of names. Hence the ſciences which retain the Greek names, though they frequently denote only the moſt ordinary things, have a more impoſing air of reſpect than thoſe which have only modern names, though theſe may, in many caſes, be more ingenious and more uſeful. Hence, for example, the conſtruction of ſhips, and the art of navigation, are more highly prized by our modern *literati*, than ſeveral other phyſical ſciences of the moſt frivolous nature, but which are dignified by Greek names. Admiration, accordingly, is not a relation of the underſtanding, or a perception of our reaſon, but a ſentiment of the ſoul, which ariſes in us, from a certain undeſcribable inſtinct of Deity, at ſight of extraordinary objects, and from the very myſterioufneſs in which they are involved. This is ſo indubitably certain, that admiration is deſtroyed by the ſcience which enlightens us. If I exhibit to a ſavage an eolipile, darting out a ſtream of inflamed ſpirit of wine, I throw him into an extaſy of admiration; he feels himſelf diſpoſed to fall down and worſhip the machine; he venerates me as the god of Fire, as long as he comprehends it not: but no ſooner do I explain to him the nature of the proceſs, than his admiration ceaſes, and he looks upon me as a cheat *.

* For this reaſon it is that we admire only that which is uncommon. Were there to appear, over the horizon of Paris, one of thoſe parhelia which are ſo common at Spitzbergen, the whole inhabitants of the city would be in the ſtreets to gaze at it and wonder. It is nothing more, however, than a re-

The Pleaſures of Ignorance.

From an effect of thoſe ineffable ſentiments, and of thoſe univerſal inſtincts of deity, it is, that ignorance is become the inexhauſtible ſource of delight to man. We muſt take care not to confound, as all our moraliſts do, ignorance and error. Ignorance is the work of nature, and, in many caſes, a bleſſing to man; whereas error is frequently the fruit of our pretended human ſciences, and is always an evil. Let our political writers ſay what they will, while they boaſt of our wonderful progreſs in knowledge, and oppoſe to it the barbariſm of paſt ages, it was not ignorance which then ſet all Europe on fire, and inundated it with blood, in ſettling religious diſputations. A race of ignorants would have kept themſelves quiet. The miſchief was done by perſons who were under the power of error, who, at that time, vaunted as much, perhaps, of their ſuperior illumination, as we now-a-days do of ours, and into each of whom the European ſpirit of education had inſtilled this error of early infancy, "Be the firſt."

How many evils does ignorance conceal from us, which we are doomed one day to encounter, in the courſe of human life, beyond the poſſibility of eſcaping! the inconſtancy of friends, the revolutions of fortune, calumnies, and the hour of death itſelf, ſo tremendous to moſt men. The knowledge of ills like theſe would marr all the comfort of living. How many bleſſings does ignorance render ſublime! the illuſions of friendſhip, and thoſe of love, the perſpectives of hope, and the very treaſures which ſcience unfolds. The ſciences inſpire delight only when we enter upon the ſtudy of them, at the period when the mind, in a ſtate of ignorance, plunges into the great career. It is the point of contact between light and darkneſs, which preſents to the eye the moſt favourable ſtate of viſion: this is the harmonic point, which excites our admiration, when we are beginning to ſee clearly; but it laſts only a ſingle inſtant. It vaniſhes together with ignorance. The elements of geometry may have impaſſioned young minds, but never the aged, unleſs in the caſe of certain illuſtrious mathematicians, who were proceeding from diſcovery to diſcovery. Thoſe ſciences only, and thoſe paſſions, which are ſubjected to doubt and chance, form enthuſiaſts at every age of life, ſuch as chymiſtry, avarice, play, and love.

For one pleaſure which ſcience beſtows, and cauſes to periſh in the beſtowing, ignorance preſents us with a thouſand, which flatter us infinitely more. You demonſtrate to me that the ſun is a fixed globe, the attraction of which gives to the planets one half of their movements. Had they, who believed it to be conducted round the world by Apollo, an idea leſs ſublime? They imagined, at leaſt, that the attention of a god pervaded the earth, together with the rays of the orb of day. It is ſcience which has dragged down the chaſte Diana from her nocturnal car: ſhe has baniſhed the Hamadryads from the antique foreſts, and the gentle Naiads from the fountains. Ignorance had invited the Gods to partake of its joys and its woes; to man's wedding, and to his grave: ſcience diſcerns nothing in either, except the elements merely. She has abandoned man to his fellow, and thrown him upon the earth as into a deſert. Ah! whatever may be the names which ſhe gives to the different kingdoms of nature, celeſtial ſpirits, undoubtedly, regulate their combinations ſo ingenious, ſo varied, and ſo uniform; and man, who could beſtow nothing upon himſelf, is not the only being in the univerſe who partakes of intelligence.

It is not to the illumination of ſcience that the Deity communicates the moſt profound ſentiment of his attributes, but to our ignorance. Night conveys to the

* The reflection of the ſun's diſk in the clouds; and no one ſtands ſtill to contemplate the ſun himſelf, becauſe the ſun is an object too well known to be admired.

the mind a much grander idea of infinity than all the glare of day. In the day-time, I see but one sun; during the night I discern thousands. Are those very stars, so variously coloured, really suns? Are those planets, which revolve around ours, actually inhabited, as ours is? From whence came the planet Cybele*, discovered but yesterday, by a German of the name of Herschel? It has been running its race from the beginning of the creation, and was, till of late, unknown to us. Whither go those uncertainly revolving comets, traversing the regions of unbounded space? Of what consists that milky way which divides the firmament of heaven? What are those two dark clouds, placed towards the antarctic pole, near the cross of the south? Can there be stars which diffuse darkness, conformably to the belief of the ancients? Are there places in the firmament which the light never reaches? The sun discovers to me only a terrestrial infinity, and the night discloses an infinity altogether celestial. O! mysterious ignorance, draw thy hallowed curtains over those enchanting spectacles! Permit not human science to apply to them its cheerless compasses. Let not virtue be reduced, henceforth, to look for her reward from the justice and the sensibility of a globe! Permit her to think that there are in the universe, destinies far different from those which fill up the measure of woe upon this earth.

Science is continually shewing us the boundary of our reason, and ignorance is for ever removing it. I take care, in my solitary rambles, not to ask information respecting the name and quality of the person who owns the cattle which I perceive at a distance. The history of the master frequently disfigures that of the landscape. It is not so with the History of Nature; the more her works are studied, the more is our admiration excited. There is one case only in which the knowledge of the works of men is agreeable to us: it is when the monument which we contemplate has been the abode of goodness. What little spire is that which I perceive at Montmorency? It is that of Saint Gratian, where Catinat lived the life of a sage, and under which his ashes are laid to rest. My soul, circumscribed within the precincts of a small village, takes its flight, and ranges over the capacious sphere of the age of Louis XIV, and hastens thence to expatiate through a sphere more sublime than that of the world, the sphere of virtue. When I am incapable of procuring for myself such perspectives as these, ignorance of places answers my purpose much better than the knowledge of them could do. I have no occasion to be informed, that such a forest belongs to an abbey or to a duchy, in order to feel how majestic it is. Its ancient trees, its profound glades, its solemn, silent solitudes, are sufficient for me. The moment I cease to behold man there, that moment I feel a present deity. Let me give ever so little scope to my sentiment, there is no landscape but what I am able to ennoble. These vast meadows are metamorphosed into oceans; these mist-clad hills are islands emerging above the horizon; that city below is a city of Greece, dignified by the residence of Socrates and of Xenophon. Thanks to my ignorance, I can give the reins to the instinct of my soul. I plunge into infinity. I prolong the distance of places by that of ages; and, to complete the illusion, I make that enchanted spot the habitation of virtue.

* The English, in compliment to their sovereign, George III. give it the name of *Georgium Sidus*: by which name, however, this planet is not likely to be universally or permanently known; for all the astronomers on the continent, in compliment to the merits of the scientific discoverer, permit in calling it by his name, "The Herschel."

ON DIDACTIC POETRY.

Didactic or Preceptive Poetry seems to include a solecism, for the end of

of poetry is to pleaſe, and of didactic precept the object is inſtruction. It is however a ſpecies of poetry which has been cultivated from the earlieſt ſtages of ſociety; at firſt, probably, for the ſimple purpoſe of retaining, by means of the regularity of meaſure, and the charms of harmony, the precepts of agricultural wiſdom, and the aphoriſms of œconomical experience. When poetry came to be cultivated for its own ſake, it was natural to eſteem the didactic, as in that view it certainly is, as a ſpecies of inferior merit, compared with thoſe which are more peculiarly the work of imagination; and accordingly in the more ſplended era of our poetry it has been much leſs cultivated than many others. Afterwards, when poetry was become an art, and the more obvious ſources of deſcription and adventure were in ſome meaſure exhauſted, the didactic was reſorted to, affording that novelty and variety which began to be the great deſideratum in works of fancy.

This ſpecies of writing is likewiſe favoured by the diffuſion of knowledge, by which many ſubjects become proper for general reading which, in a leſs informed ſtate of ſociety would have favoured of pedantry and abſtruſe ſpeculation: for poetry cannot deſcend to teach the elements of any art or ſcience, or confine itſelf to that regular arrangement and clear brevity which ſuit the communication of unknown truths. In faſt, the muſe would make a very indifferent ſchool-miſtreſs.

Whoſoever, therefore, reads a didactic poem ought to come to it with a previous knowledge of his ſubject; and whoever writes one, ought to ſuppoſe ſuch a knowledge in his readers. If he is obliged to explain technical terms, to refer continually to critical notes, and to follow a ſyſtem ſtep by ſtep, with the patient exactneſs of a teacher, his poem, however laboured, will be a bad poem. His office is rather to throw a luſtre on ſuch prominent parts of his ſyſtem as are moſt ſuſceptible of poetical ornament, and to kindle the enthuſiaſm of thoſe feelings which the truths he is converſant with are fitted to inſpire. In that beautiful poem, the Eſſay on Man, the ſyſtem of the author, if in reality he had any ſyſtem, is little attended to; but thoſe paſſages which breathe the love of virtue, are read with delight, and fix themſelves on the memory. Where the reader has this previous knowledge of the ſubject, which we have mentioned as neceſſary, the art of the poet becomes itſelf a ſource of pleaſure; and ſometimes, in proportion to the remoteneſs of the ſubject from the more obvious province of poetry, we are delighted to find with how much dexterity the artiſt of verſe can avoid a technical term, how neatly he can turn an uncouth word, and with how much grace embelliſh a ſcientific idea. Who does not admire the infinite art with which Dr Darwin has deſcribed the machine of Sir Richard Arkwright? His verſe is a piece of mechaniſm, as complete in its kind as that which he deſcribes. Allured, perhaps, too much by this artificial ſpecies of excellence, and by the hopes of novelty, hardly any branch of knowledge has been ſo abſtruſe, or ſo barren of delight, as not to have afforded a ſubject to the didactic poet. Even the loathſomeneſs of diſeaſe, and the dry maxims of medical knowledge, have been decorated with the charms of poetry. Many of theſe pieces, however, owe all their entertainment to frequent digreſſions. Where theſe ariſe naturally out of the ſubject, as the deſcription of a ſheep-ſhearing feaſt in Dyer, or the praiſes of Italy in the Georgics, they are not only allowable but graceful; but if forced, as is the ſtory of Orpheus and Euridice in the ſame poem, they can be conſidered in no other light than that of beautiful monſters, and injure the piece they are meant to adorn. The ſubject of a didactic poem, therefore, ought to be ſuch as is in itſelf attractive to the man of taſte, for otherwiſe all attempts to make it ſo by adventitious ornaments, will be but like loading with jewels and drapery, a figure originally defective and ill-made. *Mrs Barbauld.*

A NEW DESCRIPTION OF ST PETERSBURG, THE METROPOLIS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

FROM LETTERS FROM SCANDINAVIA, JUST PUBLISHED.

St Petersburg, Oct. 1789.

PETERSBURG, with all its ſtately palaces and gilded domes, is ſituate in the midſt of a wood, as wild and barren as any in the north. It preſents a wonderful picture of what power and genius can accompliſh. Independently of art, the Neva is its only ornament: a dead, ſandy, flat country, covered with bruſh-wood, ſurrounds it upon every ſide; a few miſerable huts, ſcattered about, complete the ſcene. The great Peter did not look to the moſt beautiful, but to the moſt uſeful ſpot, for the ſeite of his capital: his object was commerce ſolely. Peterſburg is the emporium for naval, Moſcow for rural affairs. The Ruſſian empire, extending over a conſiderable part of Europe and Aſia, muſt have a capital city to every kingdom of which it conſiſts. Tobolſky is the chief city of the Ruſſian dominions under the pole, and bordering upon China; Petro Paulouſky, of the eaſtern countries adjoining to America and Japan; Orenburg, of the provinces bordering upon Tartary and India; Caſan and Aſtrakan, of kingdoms of the ſame name, near the frontiers of Perſia; Cherſon, of the Crimea and provinces adjoining: and Kioff and Mohilow, of the Ukraine, and Little and White Ruſſia, bordering upon Turkey and Poland.

The city of Peterſburg is not huddled together, it ſpreads out like the wings of the imperial eagle. The principal quarter ſtands upon the continent, and upon the ſouth banks of the river Neva; the ſecond diviſion is what is called Old Peterſburg, and is ſituated upon ſeveral iſlands toward the north banks: the third quarter upon Williams iſland, in the middle channel of the Neva, between the other two. This noble river, after embracing the whole in its courſe, empties itſelf in the gulph of Finland, immediately below the city. The old city, originally built upon one iſland, bearing its name, now ſtretches over ſeveral leſſer ones. It is very irregularly built, and conſiſts chiefly of wooden houſes: here, however, are the firſt objects that draw the firſt attention —the citadel, in which is the cathedral, a fine building, with its gilded ſpire and turrets; whoſe ſparkling grandeur ſtrikes the eye at a great diſtance, and marks the ſacred ſpot where lie interred the remains of Peter I, and his Empreſs, the Livonian villager, Catharine I. This is the Ruſſian Mecca, and none but infidels will neglect to make a pilgrimage to it. Mahomet's ſplendid impoſture collects together a crowd of vagrant Turks and Arabs; but the mauſoleum of Peter attracts the philoſopher as well as the warrior, from every corner of enlightened Europe: the firſt admires the legiſlator; the ſecond comes to touch the bones of Scanderbeg!

The boat which gave Peter the idea of building a navy, is carefully preſerved in a ſmall houſe near the ſepulchre: it is emphatically called the Grand Sire. Before this relic was depoſited here, a naval review took place at Cronſtadt: the Grand Sire had the honour of carrying the admiral's flag, and received a general ſalute from the Ruſſian fleet.

Some will ſay, that the Ruſſian nation is not yet civilized; and that Peter only began the work of civilization —of arts and ſciences. What a narrow thought! When the work is finiſhed it is his. Will ſucceeding monarch's think themſelves diſgraced, in being named the diſciples of this immortal prince? He gave the plan of the building—he laid the foundations, and reared a part of the walls! Succeeding monarchs are his work men, his bricklayers, ſlaters, carpenters, painters, and upholſterers.

Catherine II. is the moſt diſtinguiſhed of Peter's work people, and has made

made ſuch elegant improvements upon the original plan, that it is to far become her own. The hatchet was the Emperor's favourite inſtrument; his work was uſeful, but unpolliſhed. He ſeemed to be fruitful of this, and early called to the embrace of a female. Another Catharine is born to him: the fine arts go hand in hand with thoſe of war, of agriculture, and commerce.

equal pleaſure; the one views with rapture the veins of gold, ſilver, and lead, in the native ore; the other conſiders how much one hundred weight will produce of pure metal.

The Cadet Corps, or Academy of War, formerly the palace of Prince Menzikoff, is ſituated between the Academy of ſciences and the Muſeum: is the nurſery of young warriors, the ſons of the nobility and gentry; and from this ſeminary of Mars, are taken the officers for the army. The palace of the Prince Menzikoff was applied to its preſent uſe by Count Munich. There are a number of buildings adjoining, for the accomodation of the young gentlemen.

The hiſtory of Menzikoff is romantic. Raiſed from the humbleſt ſtation to the rank of Prince, then tacked upon the wheel of fortune, yet, in every ſituation, the military art continued his favourite ſtudy. During his baniſhment in Siberia, the table of his cottage was always covered with maps and plans of the countries, the ſeats of former wars, and of battles in which he had been engaged; ſtill delighting in what had occaſioned his fall, and poring over his deſtruction! It muſt appeaſe his manes, that his houſe is ſtill the nurſery of war.

Except this line of building upon the banks of the Neva, and another ſtreet, the whole of this quarter of the city conſiſts of wooden houſes. Theſe are built very regularly in ſtreets interſecting each other at right angles: canals run through the middle of the ſtreets; but, owing to the level ſurface of the ground, the water in them, in the heat of ſummer, ſtagnates, and is offenſive. They ſerve to good purpoſe, and it would be proper to fill them up with earth.

A bridge of boats croſſes the Neva, oppoſite the Cadet Corps, making a communication from Williams iſland to the grand quarter of the city upon the continent. As you walk along this bridge, you have a front view of the equeſtrian ſtatue of Peter I. which is erected

erected upon the oppoſite bank of the river: the horſe, upon the ſummit of a rock, majeſtically rearing, and pawing the air—ſeems conſcious of his rider—"he ſmells the battle afar off; his neck is clothed with thunder." Around the ſtatue are always ſeveral Ruſſians, attended by ſome biographer. You can trace, without any knowledge of the language, by the geſtures of the orator and his audience, when he is recording the defeat at Narva, or the victory at Poltowa. They add, in theſe orations, that Peter ſtood upon the very rock which now ſupports his effigy, while he beheld the Swediſh army fly from the field of battle. I have taken a drawing of this celebrated work of M. Falconer. I was aſſiſted by an engraving from a drawing of Young, and have endeavoured to correct ſome errors in that drawing; or perhaps his engraver has not done juſtice to the drawing. "When an heroic monument," ſays M. Falconer, "is to be conſecrated to the memory of a prince, and this prince has achieved great matters in various and even oppoſite departments; he has gained victories in war; he has enacted wiſe laws, and founded eſtabliſhments conducive to the happineſs of his people in the time of peace—his academical eulogium may turn upon both theſe texts: but in a ſtatue, which can but repreſent one inſtance, we muſt conſider and chooſe. If we give a preference to his civil qualities over his military virtues, this preference cannot juſtly be condemned, till it ſhall certainly be determined which of theſe two kinds of glory belongs more particularly to him, who has ſo well deſerved them both; but more eſpecially, which of them was moſt uſeful to the happineſs of mankind. The habit I have given the ſtatue of Peter the Great, is the habit of all nations; of all men: of every age; in a word, it is an heroic habit."

Upon the right hand of the ſtatue, and to the eaſt, is the Admiralty and dock-yards, and immediately beyond theſe the Imperial palace. At this inſtant there are two firſt rate ſhips of war building under the palace windows! From the Admiralty ſpire, all the ſtreets run out as radii from the centre of a circle. The principal ſtreet is that line of buildings fronting the Neva, for an extent of between three and four Engliſh miles. The bank, for the ſame extent, is lined with granite ſtone, with baluſtrades, and a footpath of the ſame materials. Near the extremities of this ſuperb ſtreet, called the Grand Million, and which, taking the courſe of the Neva, forms a vaſt obtuſe angle, a canal is cut acroſs the main land, making the baſe of this angle, and ſurrounding the city upon the continent to the ſouth; ſo that this quarter is entirely incloſed, with the Neva on one ſide, and this canal upon the other, for an extent of about eight miles; the whole bank lined with granite ſtone, having granite baluſtrades or iron railing. Over theſe canals are erected draw bridges, likewiſe built of granite ſtone. The quarter without this canal may be deemed the ſuburbs; the houſes are moſtly of wood, but the houſes within the canal are moſtly of brick, plaiſt red and painted with every variety of colours. No houſe is ſuffered to be rebuilt within the canal of wood, but with brick; and the new is quickly driving the old city out of the gates! Amid theſe modern fabrics, the Ruſſian churches every where ſhoot up their antique turrets! The Ruſſians hold the form of their church-walls as ſacred as their forms of religion within them. The roofs are covered with block-tin, and many of them gilded.

There are in Peterſburg three imperial palaces: the palace near the admiralty, in which her Imperial Majeſty reſides, is a magnificent edifice of brick ſtuccoed, and adjoining is a long range of buildings fronting the Neva, including the private theatre of the court. The Marble Palace is built of the ſtone which gives it this name. The architect has made, what ought to have been the gavel, the front of this ſuperb building, which ſeems itſelf to bluſh at its poſture. The third is the Summer Pa-

lace, built of timber, and yet the moſt regular and elegant. It is placed in the ſummer gardens upon the banks of the river, and is truly a delightful reſidence.

The Ruſſian nobles, and even the middling ranks, exceed in the elegance of their houſes. In the Aſiatic ſtyle, they are all built in ſquares; an open court in the centre, to which is an entry by a large gate-way. With this taſte is mixed the Grecian and Italian; and the Corinthian, Ionic, and other ornaments are too much crowded upon the ſlight fabric of brick and plaiſter. It would be better to finiſh their houſes in a plainer ſtyle; and the eaſier expence would enable the poſſeſſors to keep them in better repair. Nothing looks ſo tawdry as a Corinthian cornice of plaiſter in ruins. The new church near the equeſtrian ſtatue is building of the fineſt Siberian marble, and will be one of the moſt coſtly and ſuperb ſtructures in the univerſe. The granite banks of the Neva, the equeſtrian ſtatue of Peter I. and this admirable building, will deliver down, to the lateſt poſterity, the name of Catherine II. But Catherine is imperial in every thing; and poſterity will overlook even thoſe monuments, amid the continued diſplay of great actions. The palace near the Admiralty is ſituate at the point of the angle which the river makes; and here the Neva rolls his tide, embracing the lodging of his ſovereign. From this ſpot one has the grandeſt proſpect imaginable: before you, upon the other ſide of the river, is the old city, with its citadel and ſpire; the houſes ſurrounded or intermixed with woods. Williams Iſland preſents another proſpect of a different nature: a wood of maſts, planted in front of the ſtreets. To the right and left is the Grand Million, every houſe in which is of elegant ſtructure, and inhabited by the principal Ruſſian nobility and gentlemen. The Admiralty dock-yards are ſoon to be removed to Cronſtadt, a more convenient place, adapted to the ſcite of the naval yards. The vacancy from the palace to the equeſtrian ſtatue and ſenate houſe will be filled with buildings; and the Grand Million will be one continued range of taſte and ſplendor.

I am at a loſs to gueſs what induced the Emperor to pitch upon ſo awkward a ſpot for dock-yards; from which the ſhips muſt be tranſported to Cronſtadt over ſhoals, by means of wooden camels, when this trouble could have been ſo eaſily avoided by building his navy at the harbour where they lie, and where there is a great depth of water and every accommodation. The machines called camels are conſtructed of two pieces, or a ſort of half-veſſels, built in the ſame manner as other veſſels, but of a ſingular ſhape. They are ſquare at the bottom, the ends, and one ſide; the other ſide is hollow and rounding. Theſe half-veſſels are ſunk to a proper depth, one at each ſide of the ſhip of war they are intended to carry; and their hollow ſides, being drawn cloſe to her, form a capacious womb which embraces the ſhip of war. They are ſtrongly wrapped together with cables. The water is then pumped out of the camels; they riſe, and with them the ſhip of war! Perhaps you will have a better idea of the camels, by ſuppoſing an oblong ſhaped baſon cut lengthways from the top to the bottom: the hollow ſides of each half baſon will exactly reſemble thoſe of the half camels. Again, join the two halves together, and they form the womb which receives the burden. The camels, with their loads, do not draw above eight to eleven feet of water.

Peter, probably anxious to ſhew his navy to the Ruſſians, built his ſhips at Peterſburgh, where there was a greater number to look at them. He had experienced difficulty in prevailing upon his ſubjects to come to the capital, and ſtill more in making them embark for Cronſtadt. The moment they beheld the Finland Gulph, and heard the roaring ſurge, they made a full ſtop, or ſhrunk back with terror at the awful deſigns of their prince!

Many intereſting particulars regarding the government and preſent ſtate of Ruſſia, will be given in next number.

SUBSTANCE OF A LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HON. EDMUND BURKE TO A NOBLE LORD.

My Lord,

I could hardly flatter myself with the hope, that so very early in the season I should have to acknowledge obligations to the Duke of Bedford, and to the Earl of Lauderdale. These noble persons have lost no time in conferring upon me that sort of honour, which it is alone within their competence, and which it is certainly most congenial to their nature and their manners to bestow.

To be ill-spoken of, in whatever language they speak, by the zealots of the new sect in philosophy and politics, of which these noble persons think so charitably, and of which others think so justly, to me is no matter of uneasiness or surprise. To have incurred the displeasure of the Duke of Orleans or the Duke of Bedford, to fall under the censure of Citizen Brissot, or of his friend the Earl of Lauderdale, I ought to consider as proofs, not the least satisfactory, that I have produced some part of the effect I proposed by my endeavours. I have laboured hard to earn what the noble Lords are generous enough to pay. Personal offence I have given them none. The part they take against me is from zeal to the cause. It is perfectly well! I have to do homage to their justice. I have to thank the Bedfords and the Lauderdales, for having so faithfully and so fully acquitted toward me whatever arrear of debt was left undischarged by the Priestleys and the Paines.

Why will they not let me remain in obscurity and inaction? Are they apprehensive, that if an atom of me remains, the sect has something to fear? Must I be annihilated, lest, like old John Zisca's, my skin might be made into a drum, to animate Europe to eternal battle against a tyranny that threatens to overwhelm all Europe, and all the human race?

In one thing I can excuse the Duke of Bedford for his attack upon me and my mortuary pension. He cannot readily comprehend the transaction he condemns. What I have obtained was the fruit of no bargain; the production of no intrigue; the result of no compromise; the effect of no solicitation. The first suggestion of it never came from me, mediately or immediately, to his Majesty or any of his ministers. It was long known that the instant my engagements would permit it, and before the heaviest of all calamities had for ever condemned me to obscurity and sorrow, I had resolved on a total retreat. I had executed that design: I was entirely out of the way of serving or of hurting any statesman, or any party, when the ministers so generously and so nobly carried into effect the spontaneous bounty of the crown. Both descriptions have acted as became them. When I could no longer serve them, the ministers have considered my situation: When I could no longer hurt them, the revolutionists have trampled on my infirmity. My gratitude, I trust, is equal to the manner in which the benefit was conferred. It came to me, indeed, at a time of life, and in a state of mind and body, in which no circumstance of fortune could afford me any real pleasure. But this was no fault in the royal donor, or in his ministers, who were pleased, in acknowledging the merits of an invalid servant of the public, to assuage the sorrows of a desolate old man.

It would ill become me to boast of any thing. It would as ill become me, thus called upon, to depreciate the value of a long life, spent with unexampled toil in the service of my country. Since the total body of my services, on account of the industry which was shewn in them, and the fairness of my intentions, have obtained the acceptance of my sovereign, it would be absurd in me to range myself on the side of the Duke of Bedford and the Corresponding Society; or, as far as in me lies, to permit a dispute on the rate at which the authority appointed by our constitu-

tion to eſtimate ſuch things, has been pleaſed to ſet them.

For whatever I have been (I am now no more) I put myſelf on my country. I ought to be allowed a reaſonable freedom, becauſe I ſtand upon my deliverance; and no culprit ought to plead in irons. Even in the utmoſt latitude of defenſive liberty, I wiſh to preſerve all poſſible decorum. Whatever it may be in the eyes of theſe noble perſons themſelves, to me their ſituation calls for the moſt profound reſpect. If I ſhould happen to treſpaſs a little, which I truſt I ſhall not, let it always be ſuppoſed, that a confuſion of characters may produce miſtakes: that in the maſquerades of the grand carnival of our age, whimſical adventures happen; odd things are ſaid and paſs off. If I ſhould fail a ſingle point in the high reſpect I owe to theſe illuſtrious perſons, I cannot be ſuppoſed to mean the Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Lauderdale of the Houſe of Peers, but the Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Lauderdale of Palace-yard—the Dukes and Earls of Brentford. There they are on the pavement; there they ſeem to come nearer to my humble level; and, virtually at leaſt, to have waved their high privilege."

Mr Burke then continues to take a review of his own political life, and to defend the grants made to him. He ſays, that his paſt exertions were ſuch as no hope of pecuniary compenſation could poſſibly reward; that from his Majeſty he claims no merit at all; every thing toward him has been favour and bounty.

In ſpeaking of the acts introduced by him into Parliament, Mr Burke ſays they coſt him infinite pains, from the oppoſition he every where met with in his undertaking. The military pay-office was, however, methodized, and ſo was the civil-liſt eſtabliſhment. But his reforms were far different from thoſe of the preſent day; they were not the ſuppreſſion of a paltry penſion or emolument, more or leſs: he acted on ſtate principles; the great diſtemper was in the commonwealth, and he treated it according to the nature of the evil and the object.

He knew the people were diſſatisfied, and his object was to give them the ſubſtance of what he knew they deſired. He wiſhed for reformation, and not for change. It was not his love, but his hatred to innovation that produced his plan of reform. It was to prevent that evil, that he propoſed the meaſures which the Duke of Bedford is pleaſed to recall to his recollection. There was (what he hopes the noble Duke will remember in all his operations) a ſtate to preſerve, as well as a ſtate to reform. A people was to be gratified, not to be inflamed or miſled. He claims not half the credit for what he did, as for what he prevented from being done. His meaſures were intended to be healing and mediatorial. A complaint was made of too much influence in the Houſe of Commons; he reduced it in both houſes, and gave his reaſons, article by article, for every reduction. He heaved the lead every inch of the way he made. A diſpoſition to expence was complained of; to that he oppoſed not mere retrenchment, but a ſyſtem of economy.

Mr Burke next enters into a ſhort review of his political life; he did not go into Parliament to con his leſſon; he did not ſet his foot in St Stephen's chapel before he was prepared and diſciplined. He was not, like his Grace of Bedford, ſwaddled, and rocked, and dandled into a legiſlator. He poſſeſſed none of thoſe qualities, nor cultivated the arts that led men to the favour and protection of the great. He was neither a minion nor tool. At every ſtep of his life he was traverſed and oppoſed; and at every turnpike he met, he was obliged to ſhow his paſſport, and to prove his title to the honour of being uſeful to his country. He had no arts but manly arts: on them he has ſtood; and pleaſe God, in ſpite of the Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Lauderdale, to the laſt gaſp he will ſtand.

Mr

Mr Burke then obſerves on the Duke of Bedford's eſtates as follows:

"The Duke of Bedford conceives that he is obliged to call the attention of the Houſe of Peers to his Majeſty's grant to me, which he conſiders as exceſſive and out of all bounds.

"I know not how it has happened, but it really ſeems, that, while his Grace was meditating his well conſidered cenſure upon me, he fell into a ſort of ſleep. Homer nods; and the Duke of Bedford may dream; and as dreams (even his golden dreams) are apt to be ill-pieced and incongruouſly put together, his Grace preſerved his idea of reproach to *me*, but took the ſubject matter from the Crown grants *to his own family*. This is "the ſtuff of which his dreams are made." In that way of putting things together, his Grace is perfectly in the right. The grants to the houſe of Ruſſel were ſo enormous, as not only to outrage economy, but even to ſtagger credibility. The Duke of Bedford is the Leviathan among all the creatures of the crown. He tumbles about his unwieldy bulk; he plays and frolicks in the ocean of the royal bounty. Huge as he is, and while "he lies floating many a rood," he is ſtill a creature. His ribs, his fins, his whalebone, his blubber, the very ſpiracles through which he ſpouts a torrent of brine againſt his own origin, and covers me all over with the ſpray—every thing of him and about him is from the throne. Is it for him to queſtion the diſpenſation of the royal favour?

"Why will his Grace, by attacking me, force me reluctantly to compare my little merit with that which obtained from the Crown thoſe prodigies of profuſe donation, by which he tramples on the mediocrity of humble and laborious individuals? I would willingly leave him to the Herald's College, which the philoſophy of the ſans cullottes (prouder by far than all the Garters, and Norroys, and Clarenciex, and Rouge Dragons, that ever pranced in a proceſſion of what his friends call ariſtocrats and deſpots) will aboliſh with contumely and ſcorn. Theſe hiſtorians, recorders, and blazoners of virtues and arms, differ wholly from that other deſcription of hiſtorians, who never aſſign any act of politicians to a good motive. Theſe gentle hiſtorians, on the contrary, dip their pens in nothing but the milk of human kindneſs. They ſeek no further for merit than the preamble of a patent, or the inſcription on a tomb. With them every man created a peer is firſt a hero ready made. They judge of every man's capacity for office by the offices he has filled; and the more offices, the more ability. Every general officer with them is a Marlborough; every ſtateſman a Burleigh; every judge a Murray, or a York. They, who alive were laughed at or pitied by all their acquaintance, make as good a figure as the beſt of them in the pages of Guillim, Edmonſon, and Collins.

"Is the genius of philoſophy not yet known? You may as well think the garden of the Thuilleries was well protected with the cords of ribbon inſultingly ſtretched by the national aſſembly to keep the ſovereign *canaille* from intruding on the retirement of the poor King of the French, as that ſuch flimſy cobwebs will ſtand between the ſavages of the revolution and their natural prey. Deep philoſophers are no triflers; brave ſans culottes are no formaliſts. They will no more regard a Marquis of Taviſtock than an Abbot of Taviſtock; the Lord of Wooburn will not be more reſpectable in their eyes than the Prior of Wooburn: they will make no difference between the ſuperior of a Covent Garden of nuns and of a Covent Garden of another deſcription. They will not care a ruſh whether his coat is long or ſhort, or whether the colour be purple, or blue and buff. They will not trouble *their* heads, with what part of *his* head his hair is cut from; and they will look with equal reſpect on a tonſure and a crop. Their only queſtion will be that of their *Legendre*, or ſome other of their legiſlative butchers, how

how he cuts up! how he tallows in the cawl or on the kidnies."

Mr Burke next enters into a long hiſtory of the different grants made to the Ruſſell family, from the time of Henry the eighth, to the time of the laſt penſioner of his Grace's houſe; and concludes his pamphlet by a moſt graceful tribute of affection to the memory of his late ſon; and to that of Admiral Keppel.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

A Philoſophical and Critical Hiſtory of the Fine Arts, Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture; with occaſional Obſervations on the progreſs of Engraving in its ſeveral branches; collected from the earlieſt Records through every Country in which thoſe Arts have been cheriſhed, to their preſent Eſtabliſhment in Great Britain, under the auſpices of his Majeſty King George III. In four parts, Vol. II. By the Rev. Robert Anthony Bromley, B. D. &c. 4to. 1l. 1s. Boards.—Vol. I. 1l. 1s. was publiſhed in 1793.

AS this is a work of conſiderable magnitude and the ſubject of importance, we ſhall give ſome extracts from each volume, to enable our readers to judge of the author's ſtyle and matter.

In order to *ſhew the ſuperiority of Painting to Poetry*, this author ſays:

"The death of Hector, and particularly in that moment when his body was brought back into Troy, will give us an example in every way circumſtanced to do juſtice to our ſentiment. On the ſide of writing it has every advantage that writing can have—the moſt maſterly diſplay of the moſt original and lofty poet, who was equal not only to the firſt attractions that could be given to real incident, but to the liveſt and yet the correcteſt riſſues of imagination, who knew human nature conſummately well, knew where and how to give the fineſt touches to its feelings, and was perfectly poſſeſſed of that great touchſtone of true erudition, the art of coining, by the ſhorteſt and choiceſt expreſſions, to the moſt forcible ideas; with a language too in his hands, which by its peculiar combinations was moſt happily calculated to facilitate this point.

Beſides this, if ever there was a ſubject that could call forth the abilities of a Homer, that could make him collect himſelf, and pour forth all the animation of his mind to meet with all imaginable rapidity the ardent expectation of his readers, it was that great event, ſo fraught with every thing that could ſtrike a feeling mind, or ſuggeſt impatience to a curious mind, becauſe ſo diſaſtrous to all that hero's family, ſo fatal to the city whoſe gallant defender he had been, ſo final to every hope, and ſo ruinous in its whole complexion, that beyond it nothing farther was left for that exalted writer to extend his poem.

He has done as much as the pen in the hand of Genius could do, to crowd that grand event into the ſmalleſt compaſs. Scarcely three common pages are employed, in which almoſt every line, and often words themſelves, are a ſentence. He has beſtowed leſs upon embelliſhment than ever poet or writer beſtowed on the like occaſion; for, in fact, every incident and expreſſion that Nature and ſituation dictated, were themſelves the very quinteſſence of embelliſhment. He has evidently haſtened to the principal groupe, in which was centered all the dignity and pathos of the ſcene; at the ſame time that in touching more lightly the introductory and ſurrounding images, language could not give to each a more pointed ſelection of expreſſion.

Yet what reader does not feel even the language and the diſpatch of Homer in this inſtance, too ſlow for the anxiety with which his mind ſwells to anticipate all that is untold? We no ſooner ſee, with Caſſandra from the tower, the aged father returning with his dear ſon's remains, but we are eager to behold, before words can tell us, the afflicted throng that burſts in cries from the Trojan gates, to take their laſt view of their loſt protector; but, moſt of all, to hear the heart-rending diſtreſs of the widowed Andromache, with her deſolate infant, and the maternal lamentations of the aged Hecuba. We are repaid indeed for waiting the progreſs of the narrative, in the mingled tears of the generous, grateful Helen, which give us more perhaps

perhaps than the imagination could have ſtretched itſelf to meet, but which form the fineſt cloſe to the character of the beloved hero, over whom it is natural indeed that a fond mother, and a diſtracted wife, ſhould hang in bitter lamentations: but when Helen weeps for the loſs of that amiable friend, whoſe mild and kind deportment towards her, under circumſtances which had ſhaken the temper of almoſt every one in Priam's houſe, was invariable to the laſt: this gives a finiſh to the ſcene, and endears to every reader the univerſally-lamented man, who now becomes not more the darling of his family, and of his country, than the darling of humanity.

But might not all this ſcope of detail be embraced by the pencil with the ſame effect, nay, with a more abundant one? inaſmuch as the whole is caught at once upon the canvas, and abides upon the ſenſes; whereas, in the poem, it riſes only in ſucceſſion, wherein every ſucceeding gratification treads out in ſome degree the impreſſion of that which is gone by. Caſſandra on the top of Pergamus, announcing the arrival of the body, and calling to the Trojans; the Trojan throng aſſembled below; are circumſtances which doubtleſs ſpeak with more variety and glow of expreſſion on the canvas than any language can give them. The weeping matrons and the infant around the body are beheld with no leſs ſtriking effect. If there is any thing in which the poet may ſeem to have the advantage over the painter, it is perhaps in that great effort of pathos beyond which ſobs muſt choak all farther utterance of the heart-broken Andromache—"O! that thou hadſt, in thy laſt moments, graſped my hand in thine, and ſaid ſomething which I might have remembered day and night, amidſt my tears, for ever!" But why may not Andromache, hanging with ſtreaming eyes over her loſt huſband—his hand claſped in her's—her every feature marking affection mingled with agony—the hopleſs wiſh juſt ſtarting from her lips—ſpeak the ſame ſentiment with the ſame eloquence? Even the ſtiller grief of friendſhip in the Grecian Helen is capable of being expreſſed by the pencil; and perhaps with a ſtronger contraſt to the more intereſting and vehement ſorrels of the two Trojan matrons than the poet has given her; while her's and Hecuba's certainly contribute to form the grand climax of grief, which has its completion in Andromache."

Reſpecting the revival of theſe arts at Conſtantinople, and the firſt introduction of ſubjects taken from holy writ, he ſays:

"The writers who made us acquainted with thoſe works of art, and who, by their language, would lead us to ſuppoſe that the nature of things was at once counteracted in the new ſeat of empire, by the cure of that declenſion which had preceded the age of Conſtantine, muſt be read in that reſpect with caution; they muſt be conſidered as hiſtorians, but perhaps it was the leaſt part of their character to be critics in the arts. Or, if they were, they would ſee with thoſe eyes which were given to the age around them; their notions of taſte would be ſuch as were derived from the taſte which they had ſeen produced: they would ſpeak of the works which came forth in their own times, or near them, as the Florentines ſpoke in exaltation over the firſt picture of Cimablue, which they conceived to be wonderful, becauſe they had ſeen no better. Even Petrus Gyllius, who flouriſhed in the age of Leo X. if he had ſtudied the fine arts as much as the antiquities of literature, and if his miſſion from Francis I. into Italy and Greece, had been to collect works of art as well as ancient manuſcripts, cannot be ſuppoſed to have beheld them with accuracy of taſte, at a time when hardly any of thoſe antiques were recovered, by the ſtudy of which that accuracy of taſte has chiefly been attained by the moderns. If other authorities were not ſufficient to ſhew that, with all the encouragements given to ſculpture in the age of Conſtantine, it cannot be conſidered as affording any models of art, the converſation which is recorded to have paſſed between Conſtantius the ſon and ſucceſſor of Conſtantine, and Hormiſda the Perſian architect, is deciſive on the point. Surveying the brazen horſe in the forum of Trajan at Rome, along with the ſuperb buildings adjacent, Conſtantius ſaid that "his utmoſt wiſh would be, to find abilities in his empire, which could execute ſuch another ſculpture as that;" when he had ſome ſcores of brazen horſes on the columns, and in the Hippodrom, of Conſtantinople. Hormiſda's reply did not mend the matter much, when he obſerved, with no little vanity intermixed, that

that "before the Emperor could produce ſuch another horſe, a proper ſtable ſhould be provided—and then he himſelf muſt build it."

"The encouragements with which Conſtantine was enabled to keep up the powers of art around him, received a very important ſtrength and increaſe from the ſubjects of holy writ, which then opened a new and extenſive field for the encouragement of ingenious talents. In thoſe powerful and affecting hiſtories, in all the various ſcenes ariſing from the ſcope of divine revelation, wider and more attractive intereſts were diſcloſed to the views of the pencil, ever guided before by the hands of heathens, who were aliens to the commonwealth of Iſrael, who counted the doctrines of the goſpel fooliſhneſs, and who lived without God in the world. Conſtantine gave full effect to the zeal, which as a new convert he felt. The arts both of painting and ſculpture were fully employed in the ſervice of Chriſtianity, and not of Chriſtianity only, but of the older revelation. Euſebius enlarged much in commendation of that Emperor, for the opportunities he took of making the arts contributory to uſeful inſtruction, while they decorated the city. "Thus, (ſays he) "the fountains were adorned by ſculptural ſkill, with the emblems of a good paſtor, well known to thoſe who underſtand the ſacred writings; and among other attentions of that kind you might ſee the hiſtory of Daniel and the lions, figured in brats, and ſhining with plates of gold."

"It was natural for thoſe arts to direct their attention not only to leſſons and events, but to thoſe great characters from whom both had flowed. They ſeized with rapture, as well they might, the repreſentation of thoſe choſen apoſtles, who planted the goſpel through the world at the expence of their own lives—of thoſe firſt diſciples and martyrs, who helped forward that glorious work, not leſs by their death than their labours—and, above all, of that divine perſon, whom to view in the well-ſelected traits by which the imagination of the artiſt would approach to the expreſſion of that "humana forma divina," has ever been the higheſt of contemplative enjoyments; but to behold him in any aſſured traits of likeneſs would juſtify, we do not heſitate to ſay, nay, would command, the internal adoration of all enlightened minds to all eternity.

On the patronage of the fine arts, our author has the following remarks:

"THERE is certainly a great difference between the ſtate of patronage in the modern world and that which carried the arts to their high celebrity in antient Greece; that difference is juſt as great as the political ſituation of different countries, or of the ſame countries in paſt and preſent ages. The profeſſor of fine art, in common with all who move in other profeſſions, looks naturally and properly for patronage to his abilities: but the door which opens to it is much wider to all others than to him.

"The man of letters repoſes himſelf on that good ſenſe, or that refined intelligence, which is diffuſed through the world: nor does he ever quarrel with another, merely becauſe that other ſtands as high as himſelf in the eſtimation of the learned, even in his own path of excellence: perhaps thoſe parties of merit, where no ſpecial differences of principles ariſe, are more generally ſeen to be the bond and cement of amiable and literary ſociety.

"The profeſſor of law riſes on that univerſal call for his abilities, which is miniſtered by the never-ceaſing generation and intercourſe of human tranſactions, and which he knows will evermore ſuſtain and elevate infinite numbers beſides himſelf, in ſpite of all that he can do or ſay: his jealouſies therefore of others, or his oppoſition to thoſe who move in his own immediate line, would probably never throw the ſmalleſt ſhade on their ſituation, nor anſwer any end but the vexation of his own heart.

"The phyſical and the eccleſiaſtical man, although both of them perhaps come nearer than many others to that peeviſhneſs of ſpirit, which counts every thing gained by others as ſo much loſt to itſelf, yet move on ſo broad a ground that if one man does in fact ſtand there in the way of another, the ſhade is too indiſtinct to irritate the temper, and the origin of it is too remote or too diffuſed, to be controuled by any ſchemes of envy or ill nature.

"The profeſſor of the fine art labours under different circumſtances, and experiences patronage in a different meaſure. It riſes to him more limited in its compaſs. It is capable of feeding infinitely fewer numbers. And if the number of artiſts be every where ſmaller in fact, than of other profeſſors, yet among

mong the former every individual is a candidate for the fame reward. They all ſeek to gather the ſame rays of light and warmth: they muſt all baſk in the ſame local ſunſhine, or be left in the ſhade. If, to thoſe circumſtances, nature ſhould add in the individual the ſpirit of a Diogenes, will he not be as ſevere and cynical as that philoſopher? Every man that comes acroſs him will intercept his comfort. Of a ſcanty and confined flock every particle intercepted is a grievous loſs. He grudges it; he cannot bear it. Malevolence ſucceeds to diſappointment, or even to the fear of it. And ſhould the ſpirit of a Caravaggio be uppermoſt, violence will preſently become engrafted on ill will: all will be inſtant uproar.

"Thus it is that the world of art, for want of being tempered by thoſe diſpoſitions which are at all times neceſſary to extract the ſting from rivalſhip, and to render emulation fair, and honourable, and pleaſant, or for want of that patronage which might open a wider field to the efforts of the profeſſor, has too often become a world of ſtrife; and in countries where that ſtrife might be indulged to a greater extent by the connivance of the civil power, it has ſometimes become a field of blood.

"But the fine arts can never thrive very much, or very long, where ſuch a ſpirit prevails. With unanimity and an harmonious contribution of abilities for carrying the arts to perfection, great advantages may be gained even where patronage is rare. That patronage will become inſenſibly extended. Thoſe who have no taſte will gather it from profeſſional men, they will gather the zeal of thoſe who can beſt diſplay the attractions of art, and whoſe zeal goes hand in hand with their amiableneſs of temper. They will come to admire what excites general admiration; and having fancied in themſelves ſomething that is fed agreeably by the taſte around them, they will be diſpoſed to nourish the growth of that taſte in themſelves, and to ſhed favour and patronage upon it in others. It was by ſuch harmonious efforts of profeſſional men that the fine arts every where gained their firſt footing, and that flouriſhing academies grew into exiſtence. It was a cordial communication and mutual candour, which produced ſome of the firſt ſtandards in art and antiquity. From thence came forth the Laocoon, the united work of three men equally zealous for the perfection of their art, and who have ſhewn us, in that great example, how much may be reached, whenever the efforts of human genius are fairly concentrated, and earneſtly directed to their object, and when all meaner paſſions are abſorbed in a common zeal to excel.

"Reverſe the caſe, and let contradiction, and ſtrife, and malevolent cenſure occupy the theatre of art, the taſte which would otherwiſe riſe in a country is chilled at once. The private gentleman has no encouragement to admire what is elegant, or to promote what he would admire. The progreſs of the arts is chilled in the very hands of artiſts, whoſe genius is unqueſtionably affected by the conſideration, that it is ſure to be followed by the keen ſeverity and malevolence of cotemporary antagoniſts. In ſuch a ſtate of things, where would you find three men, all equal in art, like the three Rhodians who formed the Laocoon, to unite in the accompliſhment of any great work?

"But that is not the only misfortune which flows from a bitterneſs of contention. It entails on the arts as well as on their profeſſors an opprobrium not eaſily to be removed. When we ſee thoſe profeſſors indulging a common rapine on each others talents, or each others fame, we forget that the arts which they profeſs are arts of elegance; the painter or ſculptor ſinks into the mere mechanic, who abuſes the commodities of his neighbours in the ſame trade, looks with anger on their gains, and has no other object but the low and wretched one of bringing every cuſtomer to his own ſhop, by every miſrepreſentation of others."

A Reply to the Inſtructions given by the Common Council of Oxford, to F. Burton and A. Annefley, Eſqrs. their repreſentatives in Parliament. By an Oxfordſhire Farmer. Ridgway.

THE ſubject of this pamphlet, viz. the cauſes of the preſent high prices of grain is of conſiderable importance, and has been the ſubject of much inquiry of late. Among other cauſes, the enlargement of farms and making incloſures have been alledged as contributing to that effect. We ſhall preſent our readers with the author's remarks on this branch his ſubject.

"How, in the name of common ſenſe can any collective body of men aſſemble, and after due deliberation ever ſuggeſt, that the dividing and incloſing of commonable and waſte lands, can be the means of advancing the neceſſaries of life, when every child in rural affairs muſt be ſenſible of the improvement: the general produce being, in numberleſs inſtances, doubled, and lands by inclofures are always brought into cultivation, from which, in the commonable ſtate, neither the proprietor nor the public derived any advantage. In fact, every thing may be ſaid in recommendation of incloſures as public benefits, provided they are equitably and fairly managed, free liberty being given to the plough on proper ſoils, and not one objection made by which the community can be injured.

"That the ſize of farms increaſes, and the number of farmers diminiſhes, when incloſures take place, is by no means an eſtabliſhed fact; the common council of the city of Oxford may poſſibly adduce an inſtance of the decreaſe in the number of farmers in a particular pariſh, ſubſequent to an incloſure; and the writer of this can alſo produce inſtances on the other ſide of the queſtion, where the number of farmers increaſed after an incloſure."

To ſhew the citizens of Oxford the extent of their improvidence, the replyer thus argues—

"Were the majority of farmers under the neceſſity of diſpoſing of their crop to pay their Michaelmas rent, the ſituation of the country would be dangerous indeed; inſtead of the farmers' barns and rick yards being the repoſitory, it would be the dealer's granary; monopoly, exportation, jobbing, and all the train of evils compounded of, would then really exiſt; and pray, my friends, what would then be the caſe as the ſeaſon advanced? I preſume you need not be told, ſcarcity, with all its attendant conſequences.

"To hear a body of men in a convened aſſembly reſolve, that no individual farmer ſhall occupy and cultivate more than 100 acres, or any ſpecific quantity of land, is an attempt to ſtrike ſuch a blow at the liberties, the induſtry, and creative exertions of mankind, that ſurely tyranny never before dictated. Had there not been farmers of extenſive buſineſs and property, capable of keeping a ſtore of grain, what would have been the condition of this country the laſt ſummer? deplorable it was, and had it not been for wealthy huſbandmen, abſolute famine muſt have been the conſequence. The man who keeps his corn in ſtack unthraſhed, certainly does it for the purpoſe of making an advanced price; but of that there is no certainty, not any more than in the ſpeculative dealings of any other profeſſion; the caſual and certain damages corn takes by long keeping, and the daily loſs which accrues from the principal lying without intereſt, renders it a mark of no great wiſdom in thoſe who keep great quantities of corn by them. The man who is able to do it, and does, be his motives avarice, pride, public utility, or any other incentive, I will pronounce him one of the greateſt and moſt uſeful friends to his country. Should the honeſt and laudable induſtry of the farmer have bounds fixed to it, the limitation of property will of courſe become general, otherwiſe the great and boaſted privileges of the Britiſh conſtitution are only in the mere ſound of the words. The ſame legiſlative authority which ſays to a farmer thus far ſhalt thou go and no farther, will doubtleſs turn an eye to the other orders of ſociety. The duke, the lord, or ſquire, of fifty, ſixty, or even ten thouſand pounds per annum, are as liable to reſtrictions as the laborious farmer: and whether their immenſe property was acquired by the induſtry, the heroiſm, the avarice, or knavery of their anceſtors, or their own good fortune in elevating or degrading their country, it will be neceſſary to let them know how far they may proceed:—the lawyer how many ſkins of parchment he may engroſs;—the phyſician the number of his patients:—and the biſhop or rector the value of his income. And you, my clean ſhaved, well powdered gentlemen, of the Oxford corporation, who can afford by your induſtry to contribute to the exigencies of the ſtate, for the privilege of waſting ſo much of the chief article of life, in decorating the external ſeat of your wiſdom—you, I hope, expect to undergo the limitations you propoſe to others; and as moſt of you have formerly wielded the labouring oar, and riſen to your preſent opulence and dignity, by the ſame means you condemn in your neighbours, let me beg you to conſider how you would forcibly like to loſe your own teeth, before you recommend the horrid operation to your brethren."

NEW

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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POETRY.

PROLOGUE

"TO THE WAY TO GET MARRIED."

Written by W. T. Fitzgerald, Esq.

THE Stage ſhould be to life a faithful glaſs,
Reflecting modes and manners as they paſs;
If theſe extravagant appear to you,
Blame not the Drama—the reflection's true.
Our Author makes of Virtue no parade,
And only ridicules the *vice* of trade;
Expoſes folly in its native tint,
And leaves Mankind to profit by the hint.
The modern Buck, how diff'rent from the Beau,
In bag and ruffles, ſixty years ago!
The City Coxcomb then was ſeldom ſeen;
(Confin'd to Bunhill row or Bethnal-green);
Weſt of Cheapſide you then could ſcarcely meet
The gay Lothario—of Threadneedle-ſtreet;
His folly rarely met the public eye,
Or like a ſhadow paſs'd unheeded by;
Tradeſman and rake were then remov'd as far
As gay St James' is from Temple-bar.
But now the Cit muſt breath a purer air,
The Change he *viſits*—*lives* in Bedford-ſquare;
Inſures a fleet—then Bootle's Club attend's,
Proud to be notic'd by his titled friends;
And ſtrives to join, by Diſſipation's aid,
The Man of Faſhion with the man of Trade.
Vain to aſſociate with ſuperior rank,
He quits his Leger—for the Faro Bank;
His clothing Curricle down Bond-ſtreet drives,
Riſking his own—and *worſe*—his horſes' lives;
Till urging Fortune's glowing wheel too faſt
This empty air-blown bubble breakes at laſt!
Though Trade may give ſuch upſtart muſh-rooms birth,
The Muſe pays homage to her real worth:
This Iſle to Commerce owes its ſplendid ſtate,
The ſource of all that makes her truly great;
And 'midſt her buſy ſons enough are found
To raiſe dejected Miſ'ry from the ground.
While Commerce, with a lib'ral heart, beſtows
Her wealth to mitigate the poor man's woes,
Seeks out the wretch, his gloomy priſon cheers,
And wipes with pitying hand his widow's tears,
Th' applauding world will ſay (ſuch bounty giv'n)
The Engliſh Merchant is the Steward of Heaven;
Our Author now that candour would implore
Which your indulgence has beſtow'd before;
Still on a gen'rous public he depends,
Give your ſupport—he aſks no better friends.

EPILOGUE TO THE SAME.

THE faſhions title of our Play this night,
Might fill Mamma with joy, or Miſs with fright—
"The Way to get a Huſband," and what not—
But are they *worth* the getting when they're got;—
"Yes," cried bold Miſs, whom Mother's kind regard
Has led at young Fourteen, to "cock her card:"
"Yes," cried bold Miſs, "whate'er the Formals ſay,
They are worth getting, and I know the way:
The way's up Bond-ſtreet—where we daily range,
Where ſaunt'ring Bloods crowd Faſhion's full Exchange;
There—(charming ſcene!) as undiſmay'd we ſtrut,
Dogs, Miſſes, Dukes, and Draymen meet full butt!
There, lounging, arm in arm, half-booted Crops,
With heads ſo dark—you'd ſwear they were—black mops.
There muſlin petticoats, with mud ſo lac'd:
Here ſcarlet Spencers, with an inch of waiſt—
So Scarlet, all my rouge they ſeem to ſcoff.
And look like lobſters with their tails cut off."
Here for a Huſband is the ſcene to daſh!
Here for a Town-bred Miſs to—"*make a ſplaſh.*"
The plump briſk Widow takes a diff'rent road,
She cannot walk down Bond-ſtreet—ſhe's a load:
Good ſixteen ſtone to carry—but yet ſtrong,
She rolls a wool-pack Venus—broad as long.
Yet ſhe's a tender paſſion for the Stage;
With her, dear Private Acting is the rage;
Shakeſpeare confeſſes beauties not his choice,
And Juliet grieves in a fine manly voice.
Her Romeo, a Lord, might ſuit your pocket
Looks like a candle ſunk into the ſocket.
In tones like theſe their mutual paſſions run,
—Says he, *(liſping effeminate voice.)*
"It is the Eaſt, and Juliet is the Sun!
To Heav'n reſpectful Enuy! Adieu!
And fire-ey'd Jury be my conduct now!"
Then ſhe, *(very boarſe tone.)*
"Good Nurſe, I am a child! But do not ſpeak,
Elſe would a Maiden bluſh bepaint my cheek,
For all that thou haſt hard me ſpeak this night,
I am an infant wife, ſcarce wedded quite."
Accents ſo ſweet what mortal can withſtand?
The ſtage ſtruck Peer makes tender of his hand
Juliet exclaims, as not conſenting quite,
"What ſatisfaction can'ſt thou have to-night?"
If to get Married this be *not* the way—
What grace what charm more potent can have ſway?

A Maiden in the country—on whose cheek,
Pure as the primros'd morn, the blushes speak!
Whose mind, illum'd by Nature's sober ray,
Disdains to rule, and chooses to obey—
Who, like the Briton, conquers to increase
Domestic Happiness, and lasting Peace!

TO CYNTHIA.

BY DR WALCOT.

GO, Zephyr, and whisper the maid,
That I sigh at her cruel delay:
Go, tell her the song of the shade
Is silent while she is away.

'Twas her beauty gave life to the vale,
And fill'd ev'ry swain with delight;
'Twas her voice that enliven'd the gale;
'Twas her charms that gave lustre to night.

But since she is fled from our eye,
The pleasures are gone with the fair:
The streamlet moves on with a sigh,
And each grot seems a haunt of despair.

Oh bring her once more to our plain!
Thou wilt find her where Innocence roves;
The graces are all in her train,
And her cot is the seat of the Loves.

OLD OLIVER
OR THE DYING SHEPHERD.

BY PETER PINDAR, ESQ.

RECITATIVE.

THE shepherd Oliver, grown white with years,
Like some old oak, weigh'd down by winter snows,
Now drew the village sighs, and village tears,
His eyelids sinking to their last repose.

Yet on expir'd life's trembling flame and pale,
Thus to the bleeting bands around his door,
That seem'd to mourn his absence from the vale. (more!
The feeble shepherd spoke, and spoke no

AIR.

O, my flock, whose kind voices I hear,
Adieu! ah! for ever adieu!
No more on your hills I appear,
And together our pleasures pursue:

No more, at the peep of the day,
From valley to valley we rove,
Mid the streamlets, and verdure of May,
Mid the zephyrs, and shade of the grove!

No more to my voice shall ye run,
And, bleating, your shepherd surround;
And, while I repose in the sun,
Like a guard; watch my sheep on the ground.

When winter, with tempest and cold,
Dims the eye of pale nature with woe,
I lead you no more to the fold,
With your fleeces all covered with snow.

O, mourn not at OLIVER's death!
Unwept, my last sand let it fall;
Ye too must resign your sweet breath,
For who his full years can recall.

O, take all your shepherd can give!
Receive my last thanks, my last sigh;
Whose simplicity taught me to *live*,
And whose innocence teaches to *die*.

SONG.

IN THE NEW ENTERTAINMENT OF "THE LOCK AND KEY."

A WOMAN is like to—but stay—
What a woman is like, who can say?
There's no living with or without one—
Love bites like a fly,
Now an ear, now an eye,
Buz, buz, always buzzing about me.
When she's tender and kind,
She is like to my mind,
And Fanny was so, I remember:
She is like to—Oh dear!—
She's as good very near
As a ripe melting peach in September.
If she laugh, and she chat,
Play, joke, and all that,
And with smiles and good humour she meet me,
She is like a rich dish
Of venison or fish,
That cries from the table, "come eat me!"
But she'll plague you, and vex you,
Distract and perplex you,
False hearted, and ranging,
Unsettled and changing,
What then do you think she is like?
Like a sand? like a rock?
Like a wheel? like a clock?
Aye, a clock that is always at *strike*.
Her head's like the island folks tell on,
Which nothing but monkeys can dwell on.
Her heart's like a melon—so nice
She carves for each lover a slice;
In truth she's to me,
Like the wind, like the sea,
Whose raging will hearken to no man:
Like a mill, Like a pill,
Like a flail, Like a whale,
Like an ass, Like a glass,
Whose image is constant to no man:
Like a flow'r, Like a show'r,
Like a fly, Like a pie,
Like a pea, Like a flea,
Like a thief, Like—in brief,
She's like nothing on earth—but a Woman!

EPITAPH ON DR JOHNSON.

BY ANNA SEWARD.

THE groans of Learning tell that Johnson dies—
Adieu, great critic of colossal size!
Grateful, ye virtues, round his tomb attend,
And deeply mourn your energetic friend.
Avaunt, ye vices! he was foe to you:
Yet one, the subtlest of your tribe, he knew—
He knew—but, Envy, to his fame be just,
And though you stain'd his spirit, spare his dust.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SLAVE TRADE.

Feb. 28. *Mr Wilberforce* rose to make his promised motion on the abolition of the slave trade. Having stated that tho' his reasons for having taken up the subject were motives of humanity, after a serious and deep reflection, which still prest him to bring it forward again; and though it was a traffic repugnant to every law, human and divine, still he begged the House to consider it in another light, as it now became a question of policy, from the state and aspect of our affairs in the West Indies. The mischiefs of that abominable trade were still going forward with redoubled activity, and he did not press this forward out of obstinacy, but from motives of humanity. On the 2d of April 1792, that House had, he said, come to a resolution, that the slave trade should totally and finally cease on the 27th of Jan. 1796. The French had, he said, by setting the negroes free, and by arming them, got again into their possession Guadaloupe, Cayenne, and St Lucia: for the last four years, the number amounted to near 150,000, and this fresh importation, of all others, would be the most dangerous in insurrections.—He could not help addressing himself to a certain class of men on this occasion, earnestly conjuring them to join him, and not to shew to the world that they were enemies to human liberty. Having concluded a very pathetic speech, he moved, "That leave be given to bring in a bill for the abolition of the slave trade at a limited period."

General Tarleton opposed the motion; he had, he said, as great an opportunity of knowing the state of this subject as any honourable gentleman in that House: with respect to the West India Islands, the present was the most improper time of all others for interference. The rebellion alluded to by the honourable gentleman opposite, (Mr Wilberforce) had been carried in times of peace, but even the discussion of the question was dangerous at present: black men were fitter for the climate, and instead of stopping the trade it ought to be encouraged; he concluded by moving the order of the day.

Mr Courtenay, in his usual strain of keen satire and pointed wit, addressed himself to the opposers of the motion. It had been urged, he said, that the transporting of slaves was a measure of humanity, as their Kings would cut off their heads, and they thought themselves honoured, and were anxious who should have his head cut off first, in order to honour his King. The measure was spoke of as methodistical and enthusiatic. The intent of the hon. gentleman who introduced the measure was not of this hue, it was to relieve thousands. Among the supporters of that abominable traffic were found clergymen, who supported it from scripture, and said, that the Africans were descended from Cain, who six thousand years ago had murdered his brother, and this was a punishment; and to abolish it, would be like passing a bill to naturalize the Jews, who must, by the scripture, be vagabands. He gave his direct support to the motion.

Mr Pitt said, that it was impossible for any one that felt on the subject, as he did, not to wish for an immediate abolition of the slave trade. It had been agreed that the interval of four years should elapse before the conclusion of it—four years have elapsed, and it is still carried on, and it is now by a legislative act proposed to do, what? to pledge yourselves whether you will allow any more time. For himself, he had no difficulty in saying, that he had an additional motive and an additional wish for its being delayed no longer. It had been urged, that by any discussion of an immediate abolition, you support the slaves against their masters; this, he maintained, was not the case, as it furnished them with the idea that their lot would be improved, so that must give them additional reasons to be satisfied with their condition. Another argument was, that the slaves there already would be dissatisfied if others were not imported; both these arguments could not be good. Instead of seeing any reason for delay, from the argument adduced, it was an additional reason for his giving his most hearty concurrence to the motion.

Mr Secretary Dundas was of opinion that an unjust and impolitic trade should be abolished, and he had long thought so; but now he was confirmed in an opinion that his hon. friend (Mr Wilberforce) was further from the subject of his motion than ever. Whatever speculation may present to the mind, unless it could car-

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ry with it the prejudices, paſſions, and intereſts of mankind, in practice it would ever fail. The trade had been recognized by their anceſtors; and ſhould they ſhake off all the reſpect for the regulations which they had ſanctioned in ſupporting it with bounties, and with the profoundeſt attention? He denied that the cauſe of humanity would be benefitted, as the trade, if rejected by this country, would fall into other hands, which would put it out of the power of that Houſe even to aſſiſt humanity. A gradual abolition was beſt, and this gradation ſhould take place by the ages of the negroes. Mr Dundas deſcribed the cruel atrocities exerciſed at Guadaloupe at St Domingo, and other iſlands, where the negroes were let looſe; and aſked, what would be the ſituation of thoſe iſlands, when Victor Hugues, with a decree of the Convention in one hand, and an Britiſh Act of Parliament in the other, told the negroes that the French decree had conferred liberty and ſupport upon them, when the Engliſh had made no proviſion for them, but expoſed them to want.

Mr Fox obſerved that the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer had ſo amply reviewed the ſubject, that little fell to him now in reply. The queſtion now was not for emancipation, but abolition leading to emancipation; and among other arguments he had heard, it was curious to remark thoſe of the Right Hon. Secretary of State, who told the Houſe the advantages Victor Hugues would take of this act of emancipation. Mr Fox aſked the Hon. Secretary what muſt be now the argument of Hugues, when he would tell the negroes what the Convention had done for them, and what the Britiſh Parliament had refuſed? The other argument was, the conduct of their anceſtors in functioning this trade; he would call upon the manes of thoſe anceſtors, and invoke their virtues; he would not imitate their vices, but compenſate the want of their excellencies in ſhunning thoſe very vices which were held up for imitation. Mr Fox preſſed upon the Houſe the propriety and juſtice of paſſing the bills, and tranſmitting it to the other Houſe of Parliament: the world would then judge, that a Britiſh Houſe of Commons had done its duty.

The Houſe then divided, when there appeared

For the motion	93
Againſt it	67
Majority	—62

22. *Mr Grey* oppoſed the third reading of the Vote of Credit for 2,500,000l. as did alſo Mr Fox, on the grounds of its being unuſual to paſs it at ſo early a period of the Seſſion, and its being enormouſly great, beyond all former example. It was alſo ſtrongly urged, that it was the intention of the miniſter not to cover the unforeſeen expences of the year 1796 with this vote, but to apply it to the diſcharge of expences already incurred. Mr Grey moved, that inſtead of the word *now*, which ſtood as the original motion, *this day three weeks*, be ſubſtituted, in order that the cauſe of paſſing it ſo early might be enquired into.

Mr Pitt ſupported the propriety of paſſing it now; it was true, he ſaid, that the Vote of Credit had been, in ſome inſtances, paſſed at the end of the Seſſion of Parliament, but frequently before the committee of ſupplies, particularly when the the public ſervices are preſſing.

A diviſion took place on Mr Grey's amendment, when there appeared;

For it, 25—Againſt it, 102—Majority, 77.

Mr W. Smith moved the order of the day for taking the report of the loan into conſideration. In a ſpeech of great length he inſiſted on the diſadvantageous terms procured for the public by the miniſter; his departure from the mode by competition; the effects of the Kings meſſage, which he contended muſt have been known by the gentlemen who ſubſcribed the preſent loan; the evils ariſing to the mercantile world from the ſyſtem of loans; and concluded by moving the reading of the reſolutions of the committee, which was accordingly read: he then moved the Houſe on the firſt reſolution.

Mr Pitt expreſſed his aſtoniſhment to be thus taken, as it were, by ſurprize, with a charge of ſuch a nature as amounted to a high miſdemeanour, and wiſhed that the conſideration of it ſhould be adjourned over to a future day.

Mr W. Smith not wiſhing to preſs it, the Speaker informed him that it would be regular to adjourn the debate on the firſt reſolution.

HIGH PRICE OF CORN.

March 1. The Houſe reſolved itſelf into a committee of the whole Houſe on the high price of corn—*Mr Hobart* in the chair.

Mr

Mr Lechmere, agreeably to the notice he gave, rose to make his motion relative to the more effectual preventing the exportation of corn; two strong reasons, which made him more particularly desirous of bringing it forward this day, were, the dreadful alarm of the increasing price of bread, and the severity of the weather; he inveighed principally against monopolizers and jobbers of every description, and against the exportation of corn to Guernsey and Jersey, thence to France. He concluded by moving, "That the chairman be requested to move the House for leave to bring in a bill, more effectually to prevent the exportation of corn, and to prevent selling it by the sample."

Several gentlemen on both sides of the House spoke, few of whom seemed to agree that there existed any real scarcity of corn; they only differed as to the propriety of using compulsatory measures to ascertain the fact. On this subject, the servants of the Crown being called upon to explain:

Mr Pitt rose, and began by controverting the position respecting the exportation of corn either to Jersey or Guernsey, or elsewhere, which he insisted, such were the regulations made, could not be productive of the evil stated. If any one (continued Mr Pitt) can suggest laws more effective, or means of execution more perfect, I for one should rejoice, and be among the most eager to adopt them; but surely, under the present circumstances, the public have full and satisfactory grounds to discharge all suspicion upon the subject, and wholly to disbelieve those vague and mischievous reports. Your committee, after every inquiry which they have been able to make, are fully satisfied that these injurious surmises are wholly groundless and false. As to the *scarcity* of grain within the kingdom, some gentlemen have thought proper to call upon government for explanations and proofs, that certainly are not in their power to give. It would indeed be desirable to know exactly the real state of the country, with respect to grain, if it were possible to ascertain it; and determine with accuracy and precision, how far the present scarcity is real, and how far exaggerated and artificial. But this, it must obvious, is impossible, without very violent and compulsive measures. Short of such steps, every thing that can be done has been so already. It is not however clear to what exact degree the imagined evil of the moment extends. *I am by no means certain, that the present high price of Wheat is only equal to the actual deficiency of that article. On the contrary, if every farmer in the kingdom knew how much of that grain there was at this time in the country, I have no doubt whatever, but that the price it bears would be much reduced. I am very far from entertaining the least idea that the deficiency of the stock in hand is such as to excite any alarm concerning the quantity of supply, until the ensuing harvest is got in; and I am not without expectation, that those who now withhold their grain from the market will see the error of their speculation, and feel the loss long before the harvest arrives.* On such a trying occasion as the present, it is indeed important that we should let the country see, that we are not inattentive to their wants and interests; but at the same time we must not spread idle and unfounded apprehensions, which by exciting despair, may increase the evil, and deprive us of the remedy which is now within our reach. I therefore am anxious that the knowledge of this fact should be disseminated, and that the country should know, that however great and manifest the evil is at present, yet that *by a spirited and manful perseverance on our part, the remedy is near at hand, certainly not further off than the coming harvest, and most probably much nearer.*—After a desultory debate, the previous question was carried.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

VOTE OF CREDIT BILL.

This was strongly opposed by the Duke of Grafton, and Lord Lauderdale as a measure unprecedented and dangerous, violating the form and spirit of the constitution, uniting in ministers the executive and legislative branches of the state, and taking the power of the purse from the hands of the people.

It was justified by Lord Grenville both in point of precedent and propriety. The question being put, it passed without a division.

IRISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Feb. 15. *Mr Grattan* rose to bring forward his promised motion, for the better regulation of the Channel trade between Great Britain and this country, by admitting the manufactures of each country

try into the other, upon equal rates of duty. He ſaid, this queſtion, which had already been ſo repeatedly urged in this Houſe, ſtood now upon different grounds from thoſe on which it had before been argued. Mr Grattan, after urging at conſiderable length, and much ability, the neceſſity of ſome declaration from the Iriſh Parliament on this head, as a mode of procedure which had been already ſucceſsful, in obtaining for this country every political and commercial advantage ſhe had obtained from Great Britain for the laſt twenty years, propoſed a reſolution, "That it is highly juſt and equitable, that the manufactures of Ireland be admitted into the ports of Great Britain on terms not leſs favourable than thoſe of Great Britain are admitted into Ireland;" which reſolution, if carried, he propoſed to follow up by another, "That an humble addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, laying before him the ſaid reſolution, and beſeeching his Majeſty to recommend the ſame to the conſideration of his Parliament of Great Britain, with the adoption of ſuch meaſures as ſhould tend to this effect."

The firſt reſolution being moved by Mr Grattan, and ſeconded by Mr Vandeleur, was oppoſed by

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who ſaid, he admitted that the principle was ſtrictly juſt and equitable, and differed in nothing from the right hon. gentleman but in the inexpediency of the time, when Great Britain was involved in a war, and when her miniſter had prejudices to combat in the manufacturers of Great Britain on this head, which nothing could overcome but a little time and experience, and in a period of peace, but which could not at this moment be attempted, without exciting alarms there. The other ground on which he differed, was the mode propoſed of Parliamentary declaration, when he on the contrary thought the right hon. gentleman well knew, that the end might be attained, perhaps much better, by negociation. He concluded by moving the order of the day.

The queſtion being put on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's motion, the Houſe divided: Ayes 82. Noes 16.

17. The Houſe reſolved into the Committee of Ways and Means, Mr M. Maſon in the chair.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer ſaid, that he intended to move for an additional duty on bills of exchange, and to include bills for ſmall ſums. He then moved, "that a duty of 3d. each be laid on all foreign and in-land bills of exchange, under the ſum of ten pounds: That a duty of 6d. be laid on all ſuch amounting to ten, and not amounting to fifty pounds: That a duty of 9d. be laid on all ſuch amounting to fifty, and not amounting to an hundred: And that a duty of 1s. be laid on all ſuch amounting to one hundred pounds and upwards:"—Which motions were ſeverally agreed to.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Feb. 12. On the order of the day for the firſt reading of the indemnity bill being read,

Lord Dillon roſe and ſaid, that from the ſyſtem of rapine and outrage that pervaded the lower orders in ſome parts of the nation, it was now in a very alarming ſtate; and the murders that had been recently committed upon perſons who were to give information againſt the violators of the law, ſhewed that it was daily growing worſe or more alarming. He ſaid, that if ſome ſtrong meaſures were not adopted before the riſing of Parliament, he feared that to wait till the next ſeſſion would be too late. As to the adoption of military law in thoſe places, he did not conceive it would be effectual; his Lordſhip thought the executive power ſhould be inveſted with ſome new authority, for immediately ſuppreſſing that ſpirit of anarchy and rebellion that degraded the nation.

Lord Gleatworth ſaid, he had been obliged to be in a part of the country where thoſe exceſſes were perpetrated, that had been ſpoken of by the noble Viſcount, where a ſettled ſyſtem of murder and rapine ſeemed to have been formed by inſurgents, in violation of every kind of law. Theſe offenders had formed aſſociations that were indiſſoluble; they had taken oaths, and they firmly adhered to them. So many had been put to death by them, who abhorred their diabolical proceedings, that the well-affected now become their adherents, to ſave their lives. Theſe offenders would ſay to the people, "You may eſcape the laws, but you cannot eſcape our vengence. If you join us, and you ſhould happen to be apprehended, why

it is only ſuffering a little confinement, for no one now dare inform againſt or proſecute us. If you go againſt us, death will be your fate." In this part of the country contributions were raiſed among the people, for ſecret purpoſes, to the amount of a guinea and half each a year; all which proceedings evinced a ſettled ſyſtem of revolt, that required every exertion to be uſed now to counteract. They were too weak at preſent to carry any of their diabolical ſchemes into execution; we ought therefore, in time, to prevent them from attaining that ſtrength they wiſhed for. Meaſures for this purpoſe ſhould be adopted before the ſeſſion cloſed, otherwiſe the enſuing ſummer would be more diſtinguiſhed with enormities, by thoſe infatuated people than the laſt.

The Earl of Clare (Lord Chancellor) agreed with the noble Lords who had ſpoke before him, that the country was in a moſt alarming ſituation; and ſaid, that if ſome kind of ſummary power was not given to magiſtrates, by the legiſlature, before the ſeſſion of Parliament terminated, the ſummer would produce as many crimes as diſtinguiſhed the year 1641.

MONTHLY REGISTER.

FRANCE.

Feb. 18. The council of Five Hundred decreed that the ſum of ten millions of ſpecie ſhould be at the diſpoſal of the miniſter of the home department.

17. A meſſage from the directory was read, informing the council, that the plates, the gravers, and other inſtruments, for the fabrication of aſſignats, have been burnt and deſtroyed. Inſerted in the Bulletin.

22. The Council adopted the plan of a national bank ſimilar to thoſe of Amſterdam, Venice, and London.

In a late proclamation of the directory it is ſtated, that the population of Paris is at this time 150,000 greater than at any former period.

Stoſſlet, the celebrated Chouan chief, hath been lately ſeized in one of his retreats, tried for breach of agreement with the republican commanders, and put to death. He was in high eſteem among his party.

The Executive Directory at Paris have taken the ſtep of diſſolving all the clubs in that city, in a meſſage to the Council of Five Hundred, they detail the evils to which they gave origin, and the danger to the government from allowing them to aſſemble. They requeſt the Council to explain the articles of the conſtitution relative to the organization of political aſſemblies, and to affix the penalty to each particular offence.

The preſs is to be laid under conſiderable reſtrictions, and its liberty regulated according to a plan of the executive directory.

HOLLAND.

Hague March 1. This morning, by ſeven o'clock, a great number of ſpectators aſſembled in the hall to ſee the inſtallation of the repreſentatives of the Batavian republic. The deputies made their appearance about eleven. The whole garriſon were upon the parade, and the deputies were conducted to the hall by the national guard. About twelve, a commiſſion from the States General was read, by which that aſſembly was declared to exiſt no longer. During the inſtallation of the convention, all the ſhips were decorated with the national flag, each ſailor had half a bottle of wine, a quarter of a pound of tobacco, and two pipes. The labourers in the dock-yard had ſome gratuity, and a new tree of liberty is to be planted.

The conſent of Friezland and Zealand to the convocation of a National Convention is at length obtained in due form. The revolution at Lewarden was of ſhort duration, as General Dumonceau, with ſome troops from Groningen, ſoon releaſed the impriſoned repreſentatives.

GERMANY.

Whatever may be the iſſue of the armiſtice between the belligerent forces on the Rhine, the preparations for carrying on the war are going forward on both ſides with an unabated, and an almoſt unexampled ardour. The Emperor has appointed the Archduke Charles to the ſupreme command of the army, which he hath taken from General Clairfayt, and hath intimated to the diet of Ratiſbon

bon his wife, that he ſhould be appointed Generaliſſimo over the united forces of the Empire.

SWEDEN.

The propoſed matrimonial alliance of the young King, without the advice or conſent of the Empreſs of Ruſſia, having been treated with improper reſpect by the latter, the former iſſued the following ſpirited manifeſto on the ſubject: "The King of Sweden thought it his duty, on the occaſion of his lately agreed on marriage, to give a Princeſs (the Empreſs of Ruſſia), who is his near relation and ally, the ſame proof of his attention as he readily ſhewed towards his Daniſh and Pruſſian Majeſties, to whom he is likewiſe attached by the ties of friendſhip and good neighbourhood. It was therefore with the utmoſt aſtoniſhment that his Majeſty ſaw this attention by no means returned by the Empreſs of Ruſſia. The King has accordingly reſolved for the future, not to receive from the Ruſſian Court any of theſe particular miſſions, which concern family events; and which have ever before been in uſe between the two reſpective Courts, but which the King has now aboliſhed for ever."

AMERICA.

In a meeting of the American Congreſs, Jan. 4. in ſolemn parade the ſtandard of the republic of France was preſented, and ordered to be depoſited in the archieves of the republic. This ſtandard, the preſident informed the houſe, had been preſented to him by the French ambaſſador Citizen Adet, with a ſuitable addreſs, which was read in Congreſs, with the anſwer returned by General Waſhington, which is, indeed, in the high tone of republicaniſm.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.

The war with the Maroons is not likely to terminate, without the infliction of the utmoſt ſeverities upon them. They entered into a truce with the Generals who were ſent out againſt them, and promiſed, that by a certain day they would deliver themſelves up with their whole party. But, from their future faithleſs conduct, it appeared that theſe overtures were made merely to gain delay, and that they might have an opportunity to procure ammunition and proviſions, of both which they ſtood in great need. It is reported, that ſome blood hounds have been procured from the Spaniſh Main, of which they have ſtrong apprehentions, and which are uſeful in diſlodging them from their faſtneſſes, which are inacceſſible to the European troops.

LONDON GAZZETTES.

Admiralty-Office, March 12.

A diſpatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received at this office, from Sir William Sidney Smith.

Diamond, off Cape Frehel, March 18.

SIR, Having received information that the armed veſſels detached by the Prince of Bouillon had chaced a convoy, conſiſting of a corvette, two luggers, four brigs, and two ſloops, into Herqui, I proceeded off that port, to reconnoitre their poſition, and found the channel, which I found very narrow and intricate. I ſucceeded, however, in gaining a knowledge of theſe points ſufficient to determine me to attack them, in the Diamond, without loſs of time, and without waiting for the junction of any part of the ſquadron, leſt the enemy ſhould fortify themſelves ſtill further on our appearance.

Lieutenant M'Kinley, of the Liberty brig, and Lieutenant Goſſet, of the Ariſtocrat lugger, joined me off the Cape, and, though not under my orders, very handſomely offered their ſervices, which I accepted, as ſmall veſſels were eſſentially neceſſary in ſuch an operation. The permanent fortification for the defence of the bay are two batteries on a high rocky promontory. We obſerved the enemy to be very buſily employed in mounting a detached gun on a very commanding point of the entrance.

The enemy's guns, three twenty-four pounders, being ſilenced and rendered uſeleſs for the time, we proceeded to attack the corvette and the other armed veſſels, which had by this time opened their fire on us, to cover the operation of hauling themſelves on ſhore. The enemy's troops occupied the high projecting rocks all round the veſſels, from whence they kept up an inceſſant fire of muſquetry; and the utmoſt that could be effected at the moment was to ſet fire to the corvette (named L'Etourdie, of 16 guns, twelve-pounders, on the main-deck) and one of the merchant brigs, ſince as the tide fell the enemy preſſed down on the ſands, cloſe to the veſſels;

Lieut. Pine therefore returned on board, having received a ſevere contuſion on the breaſt from a muſquet ball. As the tide roſe again it became practicable to make a ſecond attempt to burn the remaining veſſels. Lieut. Pearſon was accordingly detached for that purpoſe with the boats, and I am happy to add, his gallant exertions ſucceeded to the utmoſt of my hopes, notwithſtanding the renewed and heavy fire of muſquetry from the ſhore. This fire was returned with great ſpirit and evident good effect; and I was much pleaſed with the conduct of Lieut. Goſſet, in the hired lugger, and Mr Knight, in the Diamond's launch, who covered the approach and retreat of the boats. The veſſels were all burnt except an armed lugger, which kept up her fire to the laſt.

Killed, 2 ſeamen.—*Wounded*, firſt Lieutenant Horace Pine, Lieutenant Carter of the marines, and five ſeamen.

Horſe Guards, March 17.

Extract of letter from Major Gen. Leigh to Mr Secretary Dundas, dated Martinico, Jan. 21.

I this day received Brigadier-Gen. Stewart's ſtatement of the attack on his camp at St Vincent's on the 8th inſtant, and the return of the killed, wounded, and miſſing in that unfortunate affair.

The Governor, and a committee of the Legiſlature of St Vincent, having written to the Commanding Officer at Barbadoes, on the firſt notice of this diſaſter, Brig. Gen. Knox immediately ſent off 260 men of the 63d regiment, who had arrived there, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Gower, to their aſſiſtance.

Extract of a letter from Major-Gen. Hunter to Major Gen. Leigh.

Herewith I have the honour to incloſe to your Excellency a letter from Brigadier-Gen. Stewart, with a liſt of the killed, and wounded, and miſſing, in the unfortunate action of the 8th inſt.

I have made the beſt arrangement I could think of for the ſafety of Fort Charlotte, and the protection of the town, to effect which, I was under the neceſſity of evacuating the new Vigie, perceiving the enemy's intention of cutting off our communication with it.

I much fear that I ſhall be under the neceſſity of retiring with the troops into Fort Charlotte, which is a poſt in my opinion not to be taken by all the force the enemy can bring againſt it.

Extract of a letter from Brig. Gen. Stewart to Major-Gen. Hunter, dated Kingſtown, Jan. 13.

About three o'clock on the morning of the 8th inſtant, the enemy made an attack on our left, where we had a three-pounder and a cohorn, placed upon a tongue of land, which ran out about fifty yards, thought, from the ſteepneſs on each ſide, to be almoſt inacceſſible. On the firſt ſhot, I immediately ran out as faſt as the darkneſs would permit me, and was met by Major Harcourt, field-officer of the day. I found the men all paraded, and Brigadier Gen. Strutt, who had juſt then received a wound in his face, exerting himſelf much with the 54th regiment. I ſtill proceeded to the left, but, from the darkneſs, could not diſtinguiſh the enemy from our own ſoldiers (about this time a French officer got over our works, and was taken priſoner); and not being yet certain whether the enemy had taken poſſeſſion of the battery to the left, I directed Major Harcourt to reinforce that poſt with the picquet of the 40th; but before this could be done, I had too much reaſon to believe it was taken, and immediately diſpatched a meſſenger to Lieut. Col. Graham, to bring up the whole or part of the ſecond Weſt India regiment; but before the meſſenger had go many yards, a firing was heard on the right from the enemy, and all along the front. In this ſituation, I left Capt Harriſon of the light company of the 54th regiment, moſt actively employed in uſing every exertion to keep his men to their duty, and was proceeding to the right, by the 40th regiment, to know what was doing there, but I had ſcarce reached this regiment, when I heard the battery I had left was taken. I inſtantly turned about, directing Major Harcourt, with all the men I could collect, to follow me and retake the battery. I again met Brigadier-Gen. Strutt between ſome men, who informed me his leg was ſhattered, and Capt. Harriſon ſhot through the ſhoulder. I ſtill puſhed forward, uſing my beſt endeavours, with other officers, to animate the men to their duty, many of whom, at that moment were killed and wounded. At this time, the troops in the front and on the right of the line, gave way, and the enemy took poſſeſſion of the remaining battery. In this dilemma nothing but a retreat could be thought of,

We reached Biabou with conſiderable loſs.

loſs. The enemy hung on our rear and right; but, from the judicious attention of Lieut. Col. Fuller (who on every occaſion afforded me the moſt ready aſſiſtance) and Lieut.-Col. Graham, they were kept off.

Biabou being upwards of twelve miles from Kingſtown, without proviſion, and little ammunition, it appeared by no means prudent to take poſt here; I therefore, as ſoon as the men had got ſome little reſt, and it became dark (after having ordered fires to be kindled,) reſumed our march towards Kingſtown unmoleſted.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Miſſing in the attack of the enemy on the Camp before Mount Williams, Iſland of St Vincent, Jan. 8.

Total—8 ſerjeants, 1 drummer, 45 rank and file, killed; 1 major, 2 captains, 10 ſubalterns, 1 ſurgeon, 6 ſerjeants, 2 drummers, 87 rank and file wounded; 10 ſerjeants, 1 drummer, 180 rank and file, miſſing.

Names of Officers wounded.—Brigadier-Gen. Strutt, Brigade-Major Stewart, Brigade Major Walford (not included in the above return.)

JA. STEWART, B. Gen.

Admiralty-Office, March 18.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. Robert Stopford, Captain of his Majeſty's ſhip Phaeton, to Mr Nepean, dated at ſea, March 11. 1796, Cape Finiſterre, E. N. E. 40 leagues.

I Have to requeſt you will inform my Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, that the French Corvette, called La Bonne Citoyenne, mounting 20 nine-pounders, and carrying 145 men, was captured yeſterday by the ſquadron under my orders, Cape Finiſterre E. by N. 58 leagues.

LONDON.

The difference of opinion which prevailed between the Board of Controul and the Eaſt India Company, with reſpect to Mr Haſtings, is entirely removed, and it is at length agreed, that the law expences of Mr Haſtings ſhall be diſcharged by the Company, and that, as a compenſation for his ſervices, he ſhall be allowed an annuity for life of 5000l.

Feb. 23. Admiral Gardner in the Queen, ſailed with the reſt of the men of war under his command, with the fleet for the Weſt Indies under convoy, except the tranſports with troops, which are to ſail under convoy of the Vengeance man of war.

The Duke of York has aboliſhed the regimental conſolidated funds; a reformation by which the troops now get all their pay without ſtoppages, to the total prevention of all thoſe frauds, ſo long practiſed both on the public and the ſoldiery.

The reports of the naval preparations going forward in the ports of Holland, with a view of aſſiſting their new allies, received ample confirmation by the appearance of their fleet at ſea, and which was of conſiderable force. On Tueſday, Feb. 23. they were diſcovered coming out of the Texel by an Engliſh frigate and a cutter, ſtationed to watch their motions; they conſiſted of 6 two decked ſhips, 8 large frigates, and 5 ſmaller veſſels. Their deſtination was unknown; it was conjectured that they were either bound for the North Seas, to convoy home a fleet of merchantmen, or to go north about and join the French fleets at Breſt or Toulon. The Admiralty immediately diſpatched Admiral Duncan, with Admiral Pringle, in queſt of them.

The Marquis del Campo left this country on the 29th for Paris, to aſſume his character as ambaſſador from Spain to the French republic.

March 8. were executed on board the Defiance man of war at Sheerneſs, five of the mutineers, who were found guilty by a court martial; four others received his Majeſty's pardon. This awful ſpectacle had a due effect upon the ſeveral ſhips companies, who behaved in a very proper and becoming manner on the occaſion.

10. This day came on at the Eaſt India Houſe, the adjourned queſtion between the Directors of the Eaſt India Company and the old ſhipping owners, when, after a ſhort debate, the recommendation of the Court of Directors for hiring their ſhips by public contract was agreed to.

EDINBURGH.

March 3. The Duke D'Angouleme attended the Theatre Royal this evening for the firſt time, accompanied by her Grace the Ducheſs of Buccleugh.

4. The Lord Proveſt received a reſpite in favour of John O'Neil, under ſentence of death for murder, for ſeven days after Wedneſday the 9th inſt.

5. This day the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers had a general field day, and were reviewed by his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, Lord Lieutenant of the county.

11. The foundation of the New Aſſembly Rooms in Glaſgow, was laid in preſence of the magiſtrates, the committee of ſubſcribers appointed for conducting the building, and a number of other gentlemen.

On Saturday the 12th, David Downie was liberated from the Caſtle, in conſequence of his Majeſty's remiſſion of the ſentence againſt him. We underſtand he and his family have taken their departure for America.

We learn from Dumfries that on Saturday the 12th a very great crowd of people conſiſting chiefly of women and boys, aſſembled and ſeized conſiderable quantities of meal, which was paſſing through the town for the purpoſe of ſhipping. It is but juſtice to ſtate, that this mob committed no ſpecies of outrage, but that of ſeizing the meal, which was allowed to be ſold to the inhabitants at the reduced price of 2s. 4d. per ſtone. The next forenoon, however, the mob aſſembled again, and proceeded to ſundry farm-houſes in the ſtewartry, where they ſeized and ſent into town ſeveral large quantities of meal, which were properly lodged. By the well timed exertions of the civil and military power no further diſturbances have taken place. Conſidering the very liberal donations of individuals, as well as public meaſures taken for the relief of the poor, and ſupplies of meal (every newſpaper being filled with accounts of them), it is aſtoniſhing that any tumults or diſturbance ſhould happen any where.

At a general meeting of the county of Edinburgh, a committee was appointed to meet with the Lord Provoſt and magiſtrates, for the purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a weekly market in Edinburgh, or its vicinity, for the ſale of all ſorts of grain and meal, as alſo, to fix proper regulations for the conduct of the market, and the dues and fees, at a moderate rate, to encourage farmers to come to market.

11. A further reſpite for one month was received for O'Neil, now under ſentence of death in the tolbooth of this city.

22. The truſtees of the will of the late Profeſſor Anderſon held their firſt meeting at the Tontine Tavern, Glaſgow, when they nominated nine ordinary managers, who are to act along with the executors, for carrying into effect a courſe of lectures in experimental philoſophy, ſuch as he himſelf delivered for many years with ſo much reputation. The apparatus, muſeum, library, &c. bequeathed by the Profeſſor to this inſtitution, is ſaid to have coſt him upwards of three thouſand pounds.

22. A letter from Dunbar ſays, that a brig and a cutter have taken three veſſels, and run one aſhore to-day, between this and St Abb's Head.

On the 24th was launched from Mr John Syme's yard, Leith, a fine veſſel, named the *Sylvana*. She is the largeſt ever built in Leith, meaſuring 90 feet keel, 28 feet frame, and burden 352 tons carpenters meaſure, or 600 tons dead weight. She is the property of Mr Gladſtones of Liverpool.

Lord Dundas, as Governor of the Proprietors of the Forth and Clyde Navigation, has given one hundred guineas to the Glaſgow Royal Infirmary.

No circumſtance has lately occurred, productive of more beneficial effects to ſociety, than the late riſe in the price of ſpirits. Our ſtreets were frequently diſgraced by miſerable objects reeling about, furious with whiſky, or proſtrate on the pavement. It is pleaſant to remark, that no ſuch ſights are now to be met with; ſobriety has taken the place of diſſipation, and induſtry, we hope, that of idleneſs.

It is mentioned as a ſingular fact, that a man and his wife, who were born on the ſame day, baptized on the ſame day, had lived fifty-five years together, died lately in the parish of Sewarton, in Ayrſhire, on the ſame day; and were buried together.

As a man was driving a nail below a window in Drummond ſtreet, four ſtories high, he unfortunately fell into the ſtreet, and was killed on the ſpot.

The inhabitants of this city are greatly indebted to the Lord Provoſt and Magiſtrates for the well-timed act of Council regulating the fleſh, veal, and fiſh markets, ordering all theſe to be expoſed in public market to prevent foreſtalling, the good effects of which have been already felt.

During this month, the Theatre has been indifferently attended; the principal performers are Mr Aiken and Mr Woods, Mrs Twiſleton and Mrs Kemble.

The entertainments of the Circus are ended. In general the company has been

been respectable and numerous, and the entertainments applauded, particularly the poney races.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

14. This day came on the trial of William Brown, carter in Leith, indicted for stealing six bars of iron from the yard of Messrs John and William Crawford, merchants in Leith, on the evening of the 15th, or morning of the 16th of September last, and being habit and repute a thief.—The examination of witnesses being concluded, Mr Solicitor General addressed the Jury in a very able manner on the part of the Crown. He was followed by Mr James Ferguson, for the pannel, in a very ingenious and argumentative speech. The Lord Justice Clerk then summed up the evidence with his usual accuracy and candour, leaving it entirely with the Jury to return such verdict as, from the whole circumstances of the case, their own consciences should dictate to them. His Lordship, however, thought it necessary particularly to mention, that, by the law of Scotland, a person convicted of the most trifling theft, if he should at the same time be proved *habit and repute a thief*, would render him liable to a capital punishment; while simple theft, if not to a very great extent, would only infer an arbitrary punishment. Whatever, therefore, the opinion of the Jury might be, as to the stealing of the six bars of iron, which, of itself, was not a capital offence, he thought they must, at any rate, find the habit and repute not proven.—The Jury returned their verdict, finding, by a plurality of voices, the libel *not proven*, whereupon the pannel was dismissed from the bar.

21. This day came on the trial of Lieutenant James Fyffe, of the Elgin fencibles, prosecuted by Patrick Duff, of Carnoustie, Esq; with concurrence of his Majesty's Advocate, for perjury, in taking the trust oath (as alleged on a nominal qualification) at the election for the county of Banff, in July 1795. Lieutenant Fyffe objected to the pursuer's title to prosecute in this instance, and pleaded not guilty to the indictment. The arguments of the counsel on both sides were extremely able and ingenious. The Court has ordered printed informations.

APPEALS.

March 8. The House of Lords heard counsel in the appeal from the Court of Session, Robertson against Baird, being an *insurance question*, and generally this—whether leave *to call at a port*, means *any* port, or only such a port as is in the tract of the voyage?—Decree *affirmed*, whereby the Court found *going to Hull*, when the voyage insured was from Virginia to Holland, *with leave to call at a port in England*, was not within the policy.—Appellants ordered to pay 100l. costs.

Ommany and others, executors of the late Admiral Sir Charles Douglas, against Mrs Bingham, Sir Charles' eldest daughter. Decree *reversed*.

DURING this month the wind has continued mostly at east. We had little rain, but a good deal of hazy weather, which has brought on a sort of influenza, particularly amongst children. The range of the thermometer has been from 30° to 42° or 43°; on the 26th, a considerable quantity of snow fell. Markets, towards the end of the month, have rather been on the rise; best beef, 5d.; mutton, 6d.; veal, 6d.; the fish have been in plenty, and in considerable variety.

The English reports from the several districts, contain the agreeable information, that far more wheat has been sown this year than usual, and that the farmers are already busily engaged in sowing their spring corn. This circumstance, by the consumption of seed, cannot but tend for the present to occasion a trifling advance of grain in general, though it must tend eventually to a reduction. No opinion of the next year's crop can as yet be formed from its present full and promising appearance, as, from the uncommon mildness of the season, and the late general rains, the crops of wheat promise equally well in good and bad soils, and whether properly or improperly cultivated. In consequence of the late mild weather, the land is now in excellent good order for breaking up the wheat stubble, and receiving the crops of barley and oats. Grasses, and every kind of herbage, are in the most luxuriant and forward state. In the grazing counties, there is a profusion of turnip tops, and other winter greens: This cannot fail in a short time to bring down the price of mutton considerably. Milch cows and fat cattle were never so scarce and dear, in the memory of experienced graziers, as at present; and they are likely to remain so for some time. The price of horses will of course be on the advance. Useful horses, on account of the continued demand for the army, are every where rising in price.

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

March 1. At Huntly, Joſeph Forſyth, Eſq; of Kingſton, Upper Canada, to Miſs Ann Bell, daughter of the late Wm Bell, Eſq; late in Cockilarachie.

8. At Glaſgow, Mr Robert Orr, manufacturer in Paiſley, to Miſs Mary Paterſon, daughter of the late Mr Robert Paterſon ſheriff ſubſtitute of Renfrewſhire.

11. At Edinburgh, Francis Grant, Eſq; of Kilgraſton, to Miſs Ann Oliphant, eldeſt daughter of the deceaſed Robert Oliphant, Eſq; of Roſſie.

14. At Oban, Capt. Niel Livingſtone, late of the brigantine, the Marquis of Lorn, to Miſs Jean Campbell, daughter of Mr Donald Campbell of Iriſka.

15. At Greenwich, Major Hamilton, of the royal artillery, to Miſs Charlotte Hardy, daughter of the late Conſul at Cadiz.

17. At Kintore, John Davidſon, Eſq; of Kebbaty, to Miſs Farquhar, daughter of Baillie Farquhar, Kintore.

—At Pitmedden, Mr Wm Block, merchant in Aberdeen, to Miſs Jean Stephen, daughter of Alexander Stephen, of Pitmedden.

18. At Edinburgh, John Mackenzie, Eſq; merchant in Glaſgow, to Miſs Jane Maria Stirling, daughter of Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Bart.

29. At Edinburgh, Wm Balderſton, Eſq; clerk to the ſignet, to Miſs Helen Gilmour, ſecond daughter of Wm Charles Little Gilmour, Eſq; of Liberton and Craigmillar.

The Rev. Thomas Kennedy, of St Madoes, to Miſs Sarah Morgan Murray, daughter of the deceaſed Bailie Robert Murray, Cannongate.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 28. Mrs Souter of Mount Pleaſant, a daughter.

11. The Lady of Sir William Elliot of Stobbs, Bart. a ſon.

26. At Crathes, Lady Burnett, of Leys, a daughter.

27. Mrs Alexander of Ballanyle, a ſon.

30. At Craigo, Mrs Taylor, wife, of John Taylor, Eſq; late of Jamaica, a ſon.

31. At Weſtquarter Houſe, Lady Bruce of Stenhouſe, a ſon.

DEATHS.

At Port-au-Prince, Wm Sinclair, Eſq; M.D. Purveyor to the hoſpitals, and ſon to James Sinclair, Eſq; of Forſs, Caithneſs.

At St Domingo, Mr Robert Wardrobe, of his Majeſty's ſhip Severn.

On the 13th ult. Donald Cameron, in the parish of Abernethy, Strathſpey, aged 102 years. He had ſpent 60 years as a ſervant in the family of Lurg.

In the iſland of Tobago, Mr James Collow, ſon of the late Mr John Collow, miniſter of Penpont.

Lately, at Sunneſide, in the county of Durham, Mr Joſeph Dorham, aged 101. He had been formerly in the army, and mounted guard at Whitehall 81 years ago.

Sir William Chambers, Surveyor General of the Kings Works.

Emanuel Elem, of Leeds, a Quaker, who had by trade acquired a fortune of L. 200,000.

James Anderſon, a tinker, at the aſtoniſhing age of 114.

Mr Kelly, in the county of Meath, Ireland, at the age of 105.

At Chaillot in France, Abbe Raynall, the celebrated hiſtorian, at the age of 84.

On the 15th ult. at Kilbryde, at 12 o'clock noon, Mr Wm Wyllie, farmer and ſlater there, aged 81 years; and at 12 o'clock at night, Ann Wyllie, his wife, aged 76 years. They had lived together 58 years in great harmony. They have left 14 grandſons, and 11 grand-daughters.

At London, Major James Campbell of the Marines.

At Kilmarnock, Miſs Barbara Morris, daughter of the late Dr Wm Morris, in the 78th year of her age.

At Hoy in Orkney, the Rev. Robert Sands, miniſter of Hoy and Græmſay, in the 85th year of his age.

March 7. At Ardlogie, Wm Stuart, Eſq; of Loanhead, in 84th year of his age.

8. At Glaſgow, Mr David Edmond, merchant.

9. At the manſe of Crimond, the Rev. James Johnſtone, miniſter of Crimond, in the 83d year of his age.

(*The remainder of the Lists, &c. will be given in next number.*)

SEQUESTRATIONS.

March 1. Wm Fraſer, merchant and calendar-man, in Glaſgow.

3. Ninian Alexander maſon in Dundee.

4. James Ballingall, builder in Perth.

25. Andrew Campbell, vintner, at Lochgilp-head.

Prices of Grain at Haddington, March 30.

Wheat, 50s. Barley, 34s. Oats, 28s. Peaſe, 28s. Beans, 26s. Tares, 34s.

Edinburgh, March 31. Oat-meal, 1s. 8d. Bear-meal, 1s. 2½d. Peaſe-meal, 1s. 1½d.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

March 7.	March 31.
Bank Stock ſhut	ſhut
3 per cent. red. ſhut	ſhut
3 per cent. conſ. 68¼ ⅜	69⅝ ¼
4 per cent. conſ. 85 ¼ ½	ſhut
India Stock ſhut	ſhut
India Bonds 5s. diſc.	48-50 diſc.

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For APRIL 1796.

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RECEIPT

FOR CLEANSING THE TEETH.

THE teeth being in this age ſo much attended to (and perhaps not too much) by both ſexes, a few hints concerning the *purification* of them may not be unacceptable: Clean your teeth at *night*, becauſe when eating, particles of meat are apt to cleave about the mouth, and enter the crevices of the teeth, and which, thro' the natural heat of the mouth, will putrify if they be left in till the morning, of conſequence theſe putrid particles will become harbours of animalculæ, which are the ruin of the *teeth*. Alſo the groſſneſs which is collected in the day, will not be ſo eaſily eraſed in the morning as at night. Never uſe any powder (or at leaſt very ſeldom), the compoſition of which being prejudicial in general to the teeth, as it rubs off the enamel, the preſervation of which conſtitutes the goodneſs of the teeth; if any powder is to be uſed I would recommend fine charcoal duſt, or Peruvian bark, only uſe a dry bruſh, or elſe water that is milk-warm to waſh your mouth with; for ſo great a tranſition as from hot ſoups to cold water, inſtead of bracing up the teeth, only tends to enervate and make them ache. B.

COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE LORD CHESTERFIELD.

HIS Majeſty having been oppoſed in the cabinet, and diſappointed in carrying ſome meaſures which he was much ſet upon, retired to his private chamber in great dudgeon before all the buſineſs was finiſhed. Among other things, a Commiſſioner to repreſent his Majeſty in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland behoved to be named. The Cabinet Council overheard his Majeſty beating and pockering the fire very violently, which he frequently did when in a paſſion, and each declined going into his preſence to get a Commiſſioner named. Knowing Lord Cheſterfield's addreſs and humour, they all pitched on his Lordſhip to get the buſineſs done, as it would not admit of delay. His Lordſhip accordingly went in, making his bows with "pleaſe your Majeſty". The King continued pockering the fire with his back to the door, and took no notice of Lord Cheſterfield. Upon advancing ſome ſteps, always addreſſing the King, he at laſt got out, "Whom will your Majeſty be pleaſed to name as Commiſſioner to repreſent your Majeſty in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland?" without turning round, he called out, "the Devil." Upon repeating the meſſage again and again, he got the ſame anſwer, "the Devil" Then ſays Lord Cheſterfield, will it pleaſe your Majeſty to continue the writ of Commiſſion in the uſual ſtyle? Shall we call him "your Majeſty's Well beloved Couſin and Counſellor?" This put his Majeſty in good humour, and the buſineſs was done in the uſual way.

THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For APRIL 1796.

AN ACCOUNT OF JAMES MACPHERSON, ESQ.

THIS Gentleman was deſcended from one of the moſt ancient families in the North of Scotland, being couſin-german to the Chief of the clan of the Macphersons, who deduce their origin from the antient Catti of Germany. He was born at Ruthven in the county of Inverneſs, in the latter end of the year 1738, and received the firſt rudiments of his education at home, from whence he was ſent to the grammar ſchool of Inverneſs, where his genius became ſo conſpicuous, that his relations, contrary to their original intention, determined to breed him to a learned profeſſion. With this view, he was ſent ſucceſſively to the Univerſities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, in the laſt of which he finiſhed his ſtudies.

While at the Univerſity, he exerciſed his poetical talents, which, however, were not (if a few paſſages of Oſſian are excepted) of the firſt order. In the year 1758, he printed at Edinburgh a Poem in ſix Cantos, intituled "The Highlander," in 12mo. This performance is a tiſſue of tuſtian and abſurdity, feeble, and in ſome parts ridiculous, and ſhews little or no talent in the art of verification. In a ſhort time the Author was ſenſible himſelf of its faults, and, it is ſaid, endeavoured to ſuppreſs it. We ſhall, therefore, not revive this abortive effort by any extract. About the ſame period he wrote the following Ode on the Arrival of the Earl Mariſchal in Scotland, which is called an Attempt in the Manner of Pindar.

'TWAS when the full ear'd harveſt bow'd
Beneath the merry reaper's hand;
When here the plenteous ſheaves were ſtrew'd,
And there the corns nod o'er the land;
When, on each ſide, the loaden'd ground,
Breathing her ripen'd ſcents, the jovial ſeaſon crown'd.

The villagers all on the green,
Th' arrival of their Lord attend;
The blithſome ſhepherds haſte to join,
And whiſtling from the hills deſcend;
Nor orphan nor lone widow mourns;
E'en hopeleſs lovers loſe their pains;
To-day their baniſh'd Lord returns,
Once more to bleſs his native plains.

Each hoary ſire with gladden'd face
Repeats ſome antient tale;
How he with Tyrcis, at the chace,
Hy'd o'er the hill and dale:
Their hoary heads with rapture glow,
While each to each repeats
How well he knew where to beſtow,
Was to oppreſſion ſtill a foe;
Still mixing with their praiſe his youthful feats.

Then from the graſs Melanthus roſe,
The arbitrator of the plains,
And ſilent all ſtood fixt to hear
The Tityrus of Mernia's ſwains:
For with the Muſe's fire his boſom glow'd,
And eaſy from his lips the numbers flow'd.

"Now the wiſh'd-for day is come,
Our Lord reviews his native home;
Now clear and ſtrong ideas riſe,
And wrap my ſoul in extacies.
Methinks I ſee that ruddy morn,
When, waken'd by the hunter's horn,
I roſe; and, by yon mountain's ſide,
Saw Tyrcis and Achates ride:
While floating by yon craggy brow
The ſlowly ſcatt'ring miſt withdrew:
I ſaw the roe-buck croſs yon plain,
Yon heathy ſteep I ſaw him gain;

The hunters ſtill fly o'er the ground,
Their ſhouts the diſtant hills reſound;
Dunnotyr's towers reſound the peal
That echoes o'er the hill and dale:
At length, what time the ploughman leads
Home from the field his weary ſteads,
At you old tree the roebuck fell:
The huntſmen's jocund mingled ſhouts his downfall tell.

" The memory of thoſe happy days
Still in my breaſt muſt tranſport raiſe;
Thoſe happy days, when oft were ſeen
The brothers, marching o'er the green,
With dog and gun, while yet the night
Was blended with the dawning light,
When firſt the ſheep begin to bleat,
And th' early kine riſe from their dewy ſeat."

Thus as he ſpoke, each youthful breaſt
Glows with wild extacies;
In each eye rapture ſtands conſeſt,
Each thinks he flies along the mead,
And manages the fiery ſteed,
And hears the beagles' cries.

The ſage Melanthus now again
Stretch'd forth his hand, and thus reſum'd the ſtrain.

" Now my youthful heat returns,
My breaſt with youthful vigour burns:
Methinks I ſee that glorious day,
When, to hunt the fallow deer,
Three thouſand march'd in grand array;
Three thouſand march'd with bow and ſpear,
All in the light and healthy dreſs
Our brave forefathers wore
In Kenneth's wars, and Bruce's days,
And when the Romans fled their dreadful wrath of yore.

" O'er every hill, o'er every dale,
All by the winding banks of Tay,
Reſounds the hunter's chearful peal,
Their armour glitt'ring to the day."

Big with his joys of youth the old man ſtood—
Dunnotyr's ruin'd towers then caught his eye—

He ſtopt—and hung his head in penſive mood.
And from his boſom burſt th' unbidden ſigh,

Then turning with a warrior look
Shaking his hoary curls, the old man ſpoke:

" Virtue, O Fortune! ſcorns thy pow'r,
Thou canſt not bind her for an hour;
Virtue ſhall ever ſhine;
And endleſs praiſe, her glorious dow'r,
Shall bleſs her ſons divine.

" The kings of th' earth, with open arms,
Th' illuſtrious Exiles hail:
See! warlike Cyrus, great and wiſe,
Demand and follow their advice,
And all his breaſt unveil.
See! pouring from the hills of ſnow,
Nations of ſavages in arms;
A deſert lies where'er they go,
Before them march pale Terror and Alarms.

" The princes of the ſouth prepare
Their thouſand thouſands for the war;
Againſt thee, Cyrus, they combine;
The North and South their forces join,
To cruſh thee in the duſt:
But thou art ſafe; Achates draws
His ſword with thine, and backs thy cauſe;
Yes, thou art doubly ſafe, thy cauſe is juſt.

" With dread the Turks have oft beheld
His ſword wide waving o'er the field;
As oft theſe ſons of carnage fled
O'er mountains of their kindred dead.
When all the fury of the fight
With wrath redoubled rag'd;
When man to man with giant might,
For all that's dear engag'd;
When all was thunder, ſmoke, and fire;
When from their native rocks the frighted ſprings retire:
'Twas then, through ſtreams of ſmoke and blood,
Achates mounts the city wall;
Though wounded, like a god he ſtood,
And at his feet the foes ſubmiſſive fall.

Brave are the Goths, and fierce in fight,
Yet theſe he gave to rout and flight:
Proud when they were of victory.
He ruſh'd on like a ſtorm; diſpers'd and weak they fly.
Thus, from the Grampians old,
A torrent deep and ſtrong,
Down ruſhes on the fold,
And ſweeps the ſhepherd and the flock along.

" When, through an aged wood,
The thunder roars amain,
His paths with oaks are ſtrew'd,
And ruin marks the plain:
So, many a German field can tell,
How in his path the mighty heroes fell.

" When with their num'rous dogs, the ſwains
Surprize the aged lion's den,
Th' old warrior ruſhes to the charge,
And ſcorns the rage of dogs and men;
His whelps he guards on ev'ry ſide;
Safe they retreat.—What though a mortal dart
Stands trembling in his breaſt, his dauntleſs heart
Glows with a victor's pride.

" So the old lion, brave Achates fought;
And miracles of proweſs wrought;

With

With a few picquets bore the force
Of eighty thouſand: ſtopt their courſe,
'Till off his friends had march'd, and all was well.
Ev'n he himſelf could ne'er do more,
Fate had no greater deed in ſtore——
When all his hoſt was ſafe, the godlike Hero fell."

Thus as he ſpoke, each hoary ſire
Fights o'er his ancient wars;
Each youth burns with a hero's fire,
And triumphs in his future ſcars;
O'er bloody fields each thinks he rides,
The thunder of the battle guides;
Beneath his lifted arm, ſtruck pale,
The foes for mercy cry;
And hears applauding legions hail
Him with the ſhouts of victory.

After this performance, we hear no more of Mr Macpherſon's metrical compoſitions.

It was intended that he ſhould enter into the ſervice of the Church, but whether he ever took orders we are uncertain. Mr Gray ſpeaks of him as a young Clergyman*, but David Hume probably more truly deſcribes him as "a modeſt ſenſible young man, not ſettled in any living, but employed as a private tutor in Mr Graham of Balgowan's family, a way of life which he is not fond of†." This was in the year 1760, when he ſurpriſed the world by the publication of "Fragments of Antient Poetry, collected in the Highlands of Scotland, and tranſlated from the Gaelic or Erſe language." 8vo. Theſe Fragments, which were declared to be genuine remains of ancient Scottiſh poetry, at their firſt appearance delighted every reader; and ſome very good judges, and amongſt the reſt Mr Gray, were extremely warm in their praiſes. As other ſpecimens were ſaid to be recoverable, a ſubſcription was ſet on foot to enable our Author to quit the family he was then in, and undertake a miſſion into the Highlands, to ſecure them. He engaged in the undertaking, and ſoon after produced the Works whoſe authenticity has ſince occaſioned ſo much controverſy, but which now ſeem generally admitted to be the Works of Mr Macpherſon himſelf.

In 1762 he publiſhed "Fingal, an Antient Epic Poem, in ſix books," together with ſeveral other Poems, compoſed by Oſſian, the ſon of Fingal, tranſlated from the Gaelic language, 4to. The ſubject of this Epic Poem is an invaſion of Ireland by Swaran, King of Lochlin. Cuchullin, General of the Iriſh tribes during the minority of Cormac King of Ireland, upon intelligence of the invaſion, aſſembled his forces near Tura, a caſtle on the coaſt of Ulſter. The Poem opens with the landing of Swaran; councils are held, battles fought, and Cuchullin is at laſt totally defeated. In the mean time Fingal, King of the Highlands of Scotland, whoſe aid had been ſolicited before the enemy landed, arrived, and expelled them from the country. This war, which continued but ſix days, and as many nights, is, including the epiſodes, the ſtory of the Poem. The ſcene, the heath of Lena, near a mountain called Cromleach in Ulſter. This Poem alſo was received with equal applauſe as the preceding Fragments.

The next year he produced "Temora," an ancient Epic Poem, in eight books: together with ſeveral other Poems compoſed by Oſſian, ſon of Fingal, 4to.; which, though well received, found the Public ſomewhat leſs diſpoſed to beſtow the ſame meaſure of applauſe. Though theſe Poems had been examined by Dr Blair, and others, and their authenticity aſſerted, there were not wanting ſome of equal reputation for critical abilities, who either doubted or declared their diſbelief of the genuineneſs of them. By this time the Author ſeems to have deveſted himſelf of that modeſty which Mr Hume had formerly commended, and treated his antagoniſts in an arrogant manner, not calculated to remove any impreſſions they had received.

"Since the publication," ſays he, "of the laſt collection of Oſſian's Poems, many inſinuations have been made, and

* Maſon's Life of Gray.
† Vol. 5. page 329.

doubts arifen, concerning their authenticity. I fhall probably hear more of the fame kind after the prefent Poems make their appearance. Whether thefe fufpicions are fuggefted by prejudice, or are only the effects of ignorance of facts, I fhall not pretend to determine. To me they give no concern, as I have it always in my power to remove them. An incredulity of this kind is natural to perfons who confine all merit to their own age and country. Thefe are generally the weakeft as well as the moft ignorant of the people. Indolently confined to a place, their ideas are very narrow and circumfcribed. It is ridiculous enough, to fee fuch people as thefe are branding their anceftors with the defpicable appellation of Barbarians. Sober reafon can eafily difcern where the title ought to be fixed with more propriety.

"As prejudice is always the effect of ignorance, the knowing, the man of true tafte, defpife and difmifs it. If the poetry is good, and the characters natural and ftriking, to them it is a matter of indifference, whether the heroes were born in the little village of Angles in Juteland, or natives of the barren heaths of Caledonia. That honour which Nations derive from anceftors, worthy or renowned, is merely ideal. It may buoy up the minds of individuals, but it contributes very little to their importance in the eyes of others. But of all thofe prejudices which are incident to narrow minds, that which meafures the merit of performances by the vulgar opinion concerning the country which produced them, is certainly the moft ridiculous. Ridiculous, however, as it is, few have the courage to reject it; and I am thoroughly convinced, that a few quaint lines of a Roman or Greek Epigrammatift, if dug out of the ruins of Herculaneum, would meet with more cordial and univerfal applaufe than all the moft beautiful and natural rhapfodies of all the Celtic Bards and Scandinavian Scalders that ever exifted."

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS.

THIS Gentleman, whofe fame will laft as long as the noble building of Somerfet Houfe fhall rear its majeftic head, was by birth a Swede. It has been faid, that he was defcended of the ancient family of Chalmers in Scotland, Barons of Tartas in France, and that his father was a merchant, who fuffered much by fupplying Charles XII. with money and goods during his wars, for which he received only the bafe copper coin of that monarch, ftruck for the purpofe in his emergencies, and, like the French affignats, afterwards depreciated: by which means the holder was involved in ruin.

At the age of two years, Sir William was brought over to England, and at a proper time, placed at Rippon fchool in Yorkfhire, where it is believed, he continued until he was appointed chief Supercargo of the Swedifh fhips to China. In this ftuation he did not remain long, probably not more than one voyage. On quitting this employment, he determined to follow the bent of his genius, which led him to Defign and Architecture.

His firft refidence in London was in Poland ftreet; but not, as has been aferted, in the bufinefs of a carpenter. He, at an early period, difplayed the talents he poffeffed, and foon was confidered as one of the beft architects and draftfmen in Europe. His abilities introduced him to the knowledge of the late Lord Bute, by whofe intereft he was appointed drawing-mafter to his Majefty, the Prince of Wales.

His firft work of confequence was Lord Befborough's Villa at Rochampton, which, from his conduct in that bufinefs, procured him many other buildings. He gave in his plan to Lord Befborough with an eftimate as an architect: and, on that nobleman's applying to him to know whether he would build it himfelf for the money mentioned